THURSDAY
March 12, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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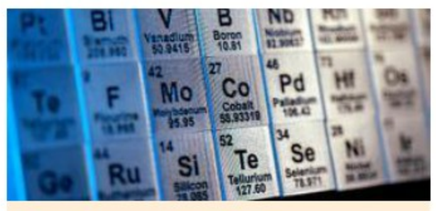

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Holding up half the sky on India's farms

Low wage rates reveal a large gender gap

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Defending champion RCB takes on SRH

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NEARBY

'IT exports from State set to cross ₹5.5 lakh crore'

BENGALURU
Karnataka's IT exports are expected to cross ₹5.50 lakh crore in 2025–26, IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge told the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. » PAGE 6

HC upholds conviction of former MLA

BENGALURU
The High Court has upheld the judgments of the trial courts in convicting M.P. Kumaraswamy, a former MLA from the Mudigere Assembly Constituency, in eight cheque dishonour cases. » PAGE 7

MSMEs on edge amid LPG crunch, rising prices

BENGALURU
Micro, small, and medium industries in Bengaluru are increasingly growing concerned about the ongoing LPG supply crunch and rising prices due to tensions in West Asia. Many of them rely on LPG and industrial gases for their operations. » PAGE 2

Iran targets commercial ships; global energy concerns mount

Three crew members missing from India-bound Thai cargo ship hit in the Strait of Hormuz; MEA deplores attacks on ships; Iran warns of targeting financial institutions in West Asia; energy agency to unlock 400 million barrels of oil from reserves

Associated Press
DUBAI/NEW DELHI

Iran attacked commercial ships across the Persian Gulf and targeted Dubai International Airport in the UAE on Wednesday, escalating a campaign of squeezing the oil-rich region as global energy concerns mounted and American and Israeli airstrikes pounded the Islamic Republic.

Authorities were searching for three crew members from India-bound Thai cargo ship *Mayuree Naree*, which was set ablaze off the Oman coast in the Strait of Hormuz after a projectile strike. The Omani Navy rescued 20 from the vessel, according to Thailand's Marine Department.

Taking note of the attack on the ship which was on its way to Kandla in Gujarat, the Ministry of External Affairs said it "deplores the fact that commercial shipping is being made a target of military attacks".

"Precious lives, including of Indian citizens, have already been lost in multiple such attacks in the earlier phase of this conflict and the intensity and lethality of the attacks only seems to be increasing", the Ministry said in a statement, adding that targeting commercial shipping and endangering innocent civilian crew members must be avoided.

Four people were wounded in Dubai when two Iranian drones hit near the airport, but flights continued, the Dubai Media Office said.

The U.K. Maritime Trade Operations centre, run by the British military, reported an attack on a container ship off the UAE, saying the "extent of the damage is currently unknown but under investigation by the crew."

Another ship was hit by a projectile in the Persian Gulf, it said. The crew was reported safe.

Separately, Kuwait said its defences downed eight drones and Saudi Arabia said it intercepted five heading toward its Shaybah oil field.

Iran's joint military command said it would target financial institutions in West Asia after the state-run IRNA news agency reported that the state-owned Bank Sepah in Tehran, sanctioned by the U.S. over funding armed forces, came under attack early on Wednesday, killing staffers.

The ship attacks follow intense American airstrikes targeting Iranian Navy assets and the port city of Bandar Abbas on Tuesday.

Caught in crossfire: Smoke rising from India-bound Thai carrier *Mayuree Naree* near the Strait of Hormuz off the Oman coast after an attack on Wednesday. AFP

Oil crisis

Oil prices remained well below Monday's peaks but the price of Brent crude, the international standard, was still up some 20% on Wednesday from when the war began, and consumers around the world were already feeling the consequences.

In an attempt to manage price jumps, the International Energy Agency said its member countries would unlock 400 million barrels of oil from their reserves – the biggest such release ever.

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'LPG output up 25%, Centre to address issues'

NEW DELHI
India's production of liquified petroleum gas has increased 25% since the Centre instituted the supply maintenance order on March 8, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said on Wednesday. The Centre was also working to expand the coverage of delivery authentication code system to 90% of domestic consumers to address issues relating to diversion at the distributor level, she said. » PAGE 13

Motion in LS to oust Om Birla as Speaker rejected amid drama

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The resolution seeking Om Birla's removal as Speaker of the Lok Sabha was defeated by a voice vote on Wednesday amid high drama, with Opposition MPs raising slogans against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks about Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

The Opposition erupted in protest over Mr. Shah's comments on Mr. Gandhi's conduct in Parliament, including the time he went to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's seat and hugged him.

BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, who was in the chair, assured MPs that Mr. Shah's remarks would be examined, and asked Congress MP Mohammad Javed, who had moved the resolution, to speak. However, as the Opposition continued to shout slogans demanding an apology from the Home Minister, Mr. Pal sought the vote of the House, which rejected the motion by a voice vote. No division of votes was sought as the House was not in order.

The House "will be run by its own rules and not by the rules of a party. Rights are to be protected but not *visheshaadhikar* (privileges)," Mr. Shah said while wrapping up the debate.

"According to the established history of this House, its proceedings are conducted on the basis of mutual trust. The Speaker serves as a neutral custodian, representing both the ruling party and the Opposition. It is unfortunate for parliamentary politics that a resolution for the removal of the Speaker has come," he said.

Noting that the Opposition had raised questions about Mr. Birla's integrity, Mr. Shah contended that this was akin to questioning the country's democratic processes.

> The Speaker serves as a neutral custodian, representing both the ruling party and the Opposition. It is unfortunate for parliamentary politics that a resolution for the removal of the Speaker has come
>
>
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Union Home Minister

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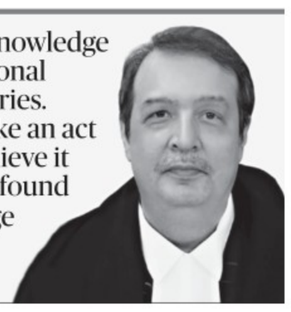
SC upholds 'right to die' for man in vegetative state

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the right to die with dignity of 32-year-old Harish Rana, who has been in a persistent vegetative state for nearly 13 years, by allowing the withdrawal of clinically assisted nutrition and hydration (CANH).

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan delivered the judgment in a packed courtroom where emotions bubbled to the surface, even reaching up to the judges' raised podium where stoicism usually ruled.

Mr. Rana had sustained severe head injuries and 100% quadriplegic disability after sustaining a fall from the fourth floor of his accommodation as a Panjab University student in in 2013. "To Harish's family, we want to acknowledge the deep emotional weight this decision carries. This decision can feel like an act of surrender, but we believe it is, in truth, an act of profound compassion and courage. You are not giving up on your son. You are allowing him to leave with dignity. It reflects the depth of your selfless love and devotion towards him," Justice Pardiwala read from his 286-page opinion.

> We want to acknowledge the deep emotional weight this decision carries. This decision can feel like an act of surrender, but we believe it is, in truth, an act of profound compassion and courage
>
> **J.B. PARDIWALA**
> Supreme Court judge
>
> 

This was the first time the Supreme Court had implemented its own 2018 Constitution Bench guidelines for what it had then called 'passive euthanasia'.

The top court also acknowledged the general consensus that 'passive euthanasia' was an obsolete and rather confusing term. "'Euthanasia' will refer strictly to active euthanasia, which remains impermissible. 'Withdrawing or Withholding of Medical Treatment' will replace the term 'passive euthanasia'," Justice Pardiwala said.

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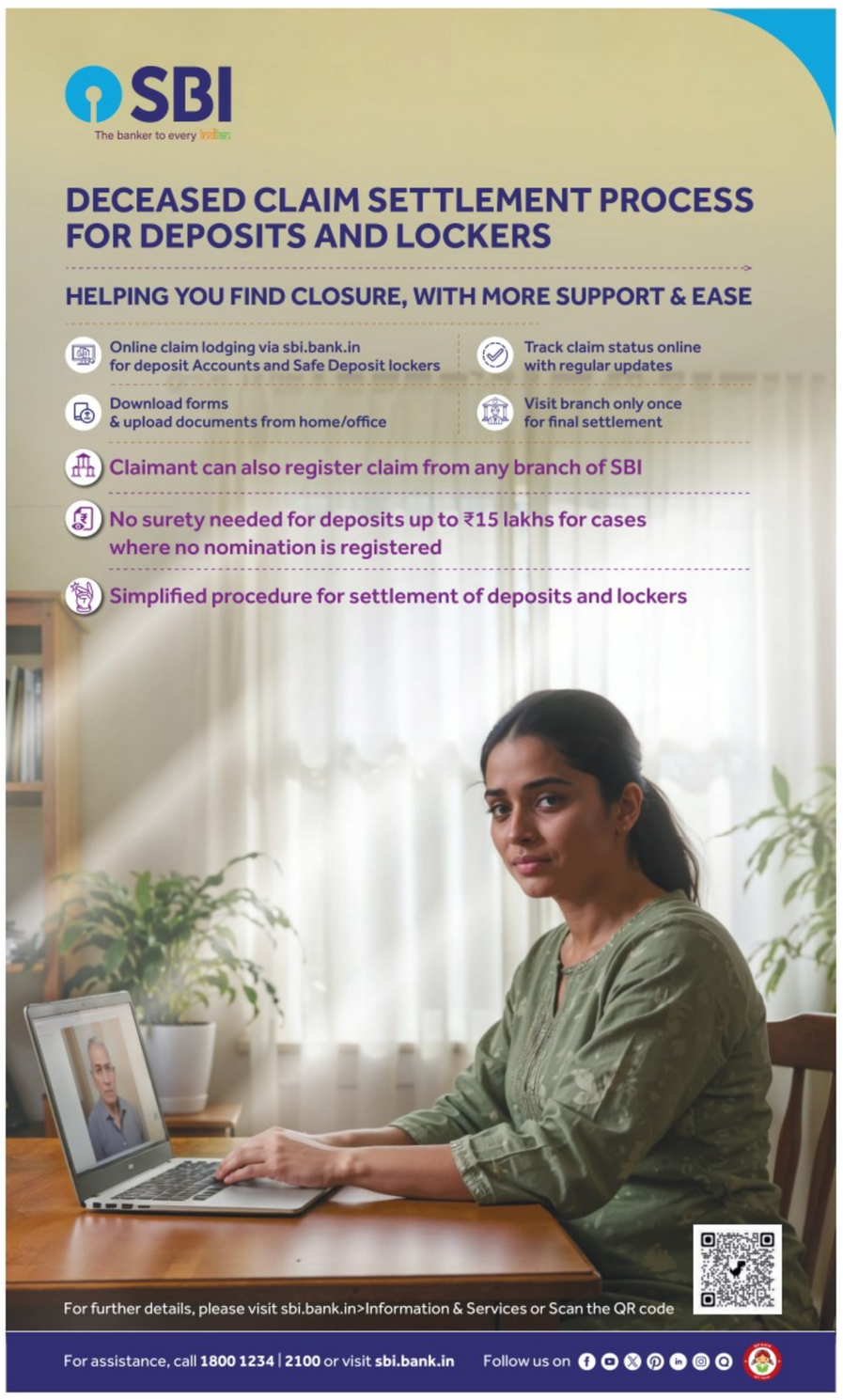
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Panel estimates Lakkundi treasure to be at least 500 years old

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Treasure found in Lakkundi of Gadag district which comprised mainly gold ornaments is estimated to be at least 500-600 years old.

Members of the Treasure Evaluation Committee led by archaeologist M.S. Krishna Murthy verified and evaluated the gold ornaments in Gadag on Tuesday, before coming out with their assessment on the age of the ornaments.

"After verification of the size and design of the 466 gm of gold ornaments found in Lakkundi, it is estimated that they may be of the age of Vijayanagar empire. The common public did not use ornaments having faces of lion and keertimukh (face of glory). They appear to be ornaments made for offering to a female deity," Mr. Krishna Murthy told presspersons.

The ornaments and other articles that were found during excavation in Lakkundi. FILE PHOTO

"In the golden ornaments we have found pearls, emerald and blue sapphire," he said. "According to the rate of gold, the value of the ornaments will be ₹80 lakh. However, since they are ancient, the value will be 10 times more," he said.

After gold ornaments weighing around a half a kg were found in a container during excavation for renovation of a house belong to the Ritti family in Lakkundi village on January 10, the government constituted the five-member committee led by Mr. Krisnha Murthy to evaluate the age of the treasure.

The treasure, kept in a copper container (charige/tambige), was found at a depth of five feet when workers were excavating for laying the foundation of the house being built by the Ritti family.

Prajwal Ritti was the first to notice the container with about half-a-kilogram of gold ornaments. Subsequently, he and his family members handed it over to the local administration.

SC unhappy with NCERT's 'rewritten' chapter

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday took strong exception to a "laconic" statement made in an affidavit filed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Director Dinesh Prasad Saklani that a chapter in the banned Class 8 textbook referring to 'corruption in judiciary' has been "duly rewritten".

FULL REPORT ON
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Amid England's struggles, Bethell shows he could be the real deal

While English cricket endured a tough winter that began with a hammering by Australia in the Ashes and ended with a semifinal loss to India in the T20 World Cup, the 22-year-old sparkled with maiden Test and T20I tons against high-quality opponents in contrasting conditions; the southpaw seems ready to take the next step in his fledgling career

Vivek Krishnan

January 7, 2026. It is day four of the fifth Ashes Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground. England has lost one of its openers in the very first over of its second innings, and finds itself 179 runs adrift with the threat of another chastening defeat looming large. At the fag end of an arduous tour that has elicited questions about everything from their preparation to philosophy – Australia retained the urn at the earliest possible opportunity in Adelaide, and was 3-1 ahead going into the final Test – the visitors could be excused for harbouring thoughts about the flight to return home. In walks Jacob Bethell and, far from folding without a fight, conjures up a sublime 154 off 265 balls at No. 3. It helps Ben Stokes and Co. post 342, and at least delay the inevitability of a 1-4 series defeat.

March 5, 2026 – The scene is the semifinal of the T20 World Cup at the bustling Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, and co-host India, aiming to become the first team to retain the crown in this format, has mounted a colossal total of 253 for seven in 20 overs. When it is Bethell's turn at No. 4, England is wobbling once again at 38 for two with in-form skipper Harry Brook back in the shed – the requirement is a further 216 from 95 balls at an asking rate of 13.93 runs per over. Against an attack spearheaded by Jasprit Bumrah, vociferously backed by a sea of blue in the stands, Bethell clearly has his task cut out. But far from being overawed, he comes up with a chanceless 105 off 48 balls. England stays in the hunt till the final over, and in the end goes down by just seven runs.

In a nutshell, these two innings, in a span of two months across formats and conditions that are at opposite ends of the spectrum, vindicate the wave of excitement that has surrounded the 22-year-old over the past 18 months.

Bethell was clearly a diamond in the rough when he was blooded into the national set-up at 20 for a white-ball series against Australia in September 2024. But it was still a punt by the decision-makers in English cricket that could have not quite gone to plan, simply for the fact that he had never notched up a three-figure score in any format at the senior level. Cut to the present, he has well and truly got that monkey off his back, holding as he does now the unique distinction of scoring his maiden First Class, List A and T20 hundreds at the international stage. His first hundred in 50-over cricket came in an ODI against South Africa at Southampton in September last year.

To spread his wings and showcase himself to the world as an all-format force at a nascent stage of his career is a testament to his precocious skill. Let's examine his pyrotechnics against India in Mumbai last week more closely.

With the required run rate having neared 14 upon his arrival, Bethell had to tee off immediately against a gun bowling unit. The southpaw reacted ever so promptly, whipping his second ball off Bumrah for a six over fine-leg. What followed was a stunning onslaught against Varun Chakaravarthy in the sixth over. A little more than a year ago, the mystery spinner from Chennai had established a stranglehold over the English batters by snaring 14 wickets in a five-match T20I series at home. The tweaker's form may have dipped at the T20 World Cup, but he was still the top-ranked bowler in the world in the shortest format. Yet, Bethell effortlessly toyed with Varun, greeting the 34-year-old with three consecutive maximums that sent the Wankhede crowd into a hushed silence.

The first two were slammed in the conventional 'V' down the ground, while the third came about via a cheeky reverse-sweep over backward point. As Bethell remarked later, his intention from the outset was to unsettle Varun regardless of the circumstances of the chase.

"Yeah, Chakaravarthy and Bumrah are two trump cards. To put pressure on Varun straightaway, I was going to do that anyway, no matter whether we were batting or bowling first. I probably wouldn't have done it as quickly, you know, if we were chasing slightly less, but as soon as he's defending, that's when you're winning. So, yeah, I managed to get that done pretty quickly," Bethell, whose Bajan twang is a reminder of his upbringing in the Caribbean, said of his game-plan in a post-match interaction.

Class act

While a target of 254 proved a few too many ultimately, what set Bethell apart right through the pursuit was his unruffled demeanour. Even as wickets fell at the other end, not once did he seem to panic and attempt wild heaves or ungainly slogs. There was implicit trust in his ball-striking ability, which stems from a strong base that enables Bethell to hold his shape and exhibit an aerial extension of his orthodox shots.

If this was T20 batting at its finest, the Test ton in Australia in January was a demonstration of Bethell swaying to the tunes of the classical genre with equal ease. On a strip that was beginning to show signs of wear and tear under the Sydney sun, and on a tour where England's more seasoned operators seemed to be caught in an identity crisis, the blonde-haired batter showed pristine clarity in his approach. He neither let bad balls go unpunished, nor was he lured into a moment of impetuosity against a persistent Australian pace battery. A touch of old-school fundamentals came to the fore as Bethell raised the three-figure mark in front of a packed crowd. Such versatility seems increasingly hard to find.

In a long winter where England's flaws were manifold, Bethell's rise was by far the biggest positive. Brook, who is another rare all-format star in the game today, was effusive in his assessment of his teammate after the semifinal loss in the T20 World Cup.

"He should be extremely proud of what he's done tonight and this whole winter, and even into the back end of our summer, he's been unbelievable. He's going to have a hell of a career with England, and I'm looking forward to hopefully spending a lot of time with him in the future," the English white-ball skipper told reporters in Mumbai.

With high praise flowing so quickly, there can be some apprehension of an impressionable lad succumbing to the pitfalls of stardom. But in Bethell's case – he was endorsed by none other than Sir Garfield Sobers and Brian Lara as a special talent while growing up in Barbados – he comes across as a level-headed individual who can even take on a leadership role in the future. He was given a taste of that responsibility when he captained England in a T20I series against Ireland last year. Asked to reflect on his learnings in recent months, Bethell exuded a sense of satisfaction. "It's been a good winter. Obviously this is a tough one to take, but, yeah, I've enjoyed every minute on the field playing for England, and that's all I can really take from it. I think my game's evolved a lot over the past six, seven months, and I'll look to take that further," he elaborated. "Both the hundreds came in losing causes, which is a weird feeling. Personal performances don't always solidify into team performances. So, yeah, both of those are tough pills to swallow, but I'm very proud of the way I went about both knocks. Both are equally satisfying."

Missed opportunity

As rapid as Bethell's rise has been, England perhaps missed a trick by not starting with him in the five-Test series against India in its home summer last year. Having made his Test debut on a tour of New Zealand in late 2024, Bethell instantly impressed with three second-innings half-centuries. But by the time England next played a Test in May 2025 – against Zimbabwe in Nottingham – his IPL commitments with Royal Challengers Bengaluru mandated his absence from the five-day fixture. Ollie Pope returned to No. 3 and amassed 171, consigning the all-rounder – he also bowls left-arm orthodox spin – to carry drinks for the first four Tests against the Shubman Gill-led outfit.

When Bethell was drafted in as a replacement for the injured Stokes for the finale at The Oval, he was visibly rusty at No. 6, scratching around for returns of six and five across the two innings as the tourists drew the series. For the beginning of the Ashes, Bethell was back to the bench, and only given a look-in after Pope's abject run in the first three Tests.

The youngster has no regrets about his decision to stay back in India for last year's IPL. Though he featured in just two games for eventual champion RCB, he treasured the opportunity to bat and share a dressing room alongside Virat Kohli. "I wouldn't say I gave it away at the IPL," he told Australia's Fox Cricket after his Test hundred at the SCG. "That experience I had over there was unbelievable... I came back a better cricketer."

When the new IPL season kicks off in just over a couple of weeks from now, Bethell will be going back to the RCB camp as an even better cricketer.

EMMANUAL YOGINI

THE GIST

- A target of 254 proved a few too many ultimately, but what set Bethell apart right through the pursuit was his unruffled demeanour
- If this was T20 batting at its finest, the Test ton in Australia in January was a demonstration of Bethell swaying to the tunes of the classical genre with equal ease
- In a long winter where England's flaws were manifold, Bethell's rise was by far the biggest positive

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FAIRS & FESTIVALS

TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS AND ANCIENT CULTURES OF TAMIL NADU

Tamils have traditionally celebrated festivals to mark the changing seasons, and these celebrations were not confined to spring alone. Even the summer months were filled with festivals that reflected the rich cultural heritage and customs of the people. Deeply rooted in ancient customs and traditions, many of these festivals gradually assumed religious overtones.

The coffee-table book Fairs and Festivals of Tamil Nadu, vividly captures the history and spirit of these celebrations through eye-catching photographs and engaging write-ups. While urbanisation has diminished the charm of some festivals, their spirit continues to endure. The book inspires readers to travel across the State and experience these vibrant festivals firsthand.

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MSMEs on edge amid LPG crunch, rising prices

Potential disruptions could lead not only to production slowdown but also can have a cascading impact, leading to supply chain disruptions for larger industries, and affect exports

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Micro, small, and medium industries in Bengaluru are increasingly growing concerned about the ongoing LPG supply crunch and rising prices due to tensions in West Asia.

Many of them rely on LPG and industrial gases for foundry and casting operations, heat treatment processes, powder coating, engineering fabrication and welding, food processing, and chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing. Potential disruptions could lead not only to production slowdown but can have cascading impact leading to supply chain disruptions for larger industries, increase in manufacturing costs, slowdown in exports, and even worker layoffs.

Shiva Kumar R., immediate past president at Peenya Industries Association, fears that the industry is looking at the situation as grave as the oxygen cylinder unavailability during COVID. "The industrial units might face possible disruption or delay in LPG cylinder supply, operational disruptions in furnace-based industries, and working capital stress, especially for micro entrepreneurs," he said.

Many of the MSMEs rely on LPG and industrial gases for foundry and casting operations, heat treatment processes, welding, food processing, and other works. FILE PHOTO

According to him, for many micro and small units, energy costs account for nearly 15-30% of production expenses. Any increase in LPG prices or supply disruptions directly impacts production and business sustainability.

"Given that Peenya alone generates industrial turnover of about ₹35,000 crore annually, any disruption in production can significantly affect local economic activity, supply chains, and employment in Bengaluru and Karnataka," Mr. Shiva Kumar added.

Knock on effect

Satyanand Mukund, State secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress, noted that while larger factories mostly rely on power from the grid and have generator sets, they could experience knock on effect of the crisis as they procure from or outsource parts of work to smaller units. He pointed out that with hotels and caterers getting hit, the food supply to the factories is about to be disrupted. "Many vendors have expressed inability to serve beyond one more day or are offering a limited menu," he said.

Intervention required

H.M. Hussain, general secretary at Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association, believes that the manufacturing industry might have some more time before things go entirely south. "We hope that the government will take some positive steps before that," he said.

Mr. Kumar noted that the government must ensure an uninterrupted supply of LPG and industrial gases to MSME industrial clusters, facilitate coordination with oil marketing companies to maintain an adequate supply of commercial LPG cylinders for industrial units, and establish a monitoring mechanism to track LPG and industrial gas availability in major MSME clusters.

Hotels to try kerosene stove, induction cooktop; eateries to cut down on timings

Meeting with Chief Secretary

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"This is the first time I have faced such a situation in the last 26 years. Suddenly, we have been told there will be no gas supply. Now what do we do?" said Basavaraja M.S. of Dosa Mane in Rajajinagar, as eateries across Bengaluru struggle with an abrupt disruption in the supply of commercial LPG cylinders.

While large hotel chains in the city are managing with piped gas connections, medium and small-scale eateries have been hit the hardest. To keep the kitchens running, many restaurants have turned to alternatives such as kerosene stoves, induction cooktops, and even wood-fired cooking.

With the uncertainty continuing for a second day, several establishments have begun cutting down on "operating hours" apart from the menu options. Hoteliers point out that shifting to alternatives such as induction stoves or woodfire cooking is not a simple decision. Using such methods requires permissions from the civic body and, in the case of rented premises, approval from building owners. Besides, cooks are not trained to prepare most dishes using these alternatives.

Members of the Bangalore Hotels Association on Wednesday met Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh seeking urging the State government to take up the issue with the Centre on behalf of the hotel industry.

The association argued that nearly 75% of LPG demand is met for domestic purposes and requested that a portion of the remaining supply – around 10% -- be diverted to ensure that the eateries can go on.

P.C. Rao, honorary president of the association said they were told that the issue depends on the Central government. "The State government should not distance itself from the matter. We request the government to actively represent the concerns of the industry," he said.

Across the city, several eateries have displayed boards informing customers about the limited availability of food. Roopa Shastri, owner of Rasapaka in Gandhinagar, said the restaurant, which usually serves over 100 food items, has now reduced its menu to over 40 options. "Items such as poori, vada, and South and North Indian meals are currently off the menu because they require several dishes to be prepared simultaneously," she said. "We usually use four commercial cylinders a day, but now we are getting only one when requested."

Hoteliers warn that the disruption could have a wider impact if it continues, pointing out that restaurants support a large network of suppliers, including milk vendors, vegetable traders, and other raw material providers, apart from the workers who depend on these establishments for their livelihood. Some hotel owners said that many customers are assuming that restaurants are shut, and are avoiding visits altogether, making it difficult for eateries to justify operating even with limited menus.

LPG shortage hits 'prasada' preparation in some temples

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister Ramalinga Reddy says the govt. is closely monitoring the situation and will take appropriate action depending on further developments

Amid the ongoing shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, Karnataka Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday said that around 15 major Muzrai temples in the State are facing difficulties in preparing 'prasada' for devotees.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Reddy said the issue was discussed and steps have been taken to ensure devotees are not inconvenienced. "We discussed the problems related to preparing and distributing prasada in temples. I have instructed temple management committees and officials to ensure that devotees do not face inconvenience. Devotees feel satisfied only when they receive prasada in the temple," he said.

The Minister added that the government is closely monitoring the situation and will take appropriate action depending on further developments. "For now, no decision has been taken on reducing fuel consumption while preparing prasada. We will review the situation and discuss it further before taking any step," he said.

Meanwhile, several temples in Bengaluru have been affected by the shortage of commercial LPG cylinders used for cooking.

At the well-known Banashankari temple, which serves meals and prasada to thousands of devotees daily, the shortage has created operational challenges. The temple typically serves food to around 3,000 to 5,000 devotees every day, with the number rising to nearly 10,000 on Fridays and Tuesdays, according to temple officials.

Devraj, manager of the temple kitchen, said that the temple usually consumes one to two commercial LPG cylinders daily for preparing prasada. "Due to the shortage, we are facing some difficulty in preparing prasada. However, we are making sure that devotees are served and will make arrangements somehow," he said.

Private hostels start using firewood to prepare meals

PG owners' association calls for 'crisis menu'

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Hostels, canteens, and paying guest (PG) centres run by educational institutions and other organisations are hit hard by the ongoing commercial LPG shortage. While some have switched to firewood, some educational institutions have purchased electric and induction stoves.

While government-run hostels are being supplied domestic LPG and are not facing any problems as of now, private educational institutions are facing the heat.

The hostel at BMS College of Engineering in the city has started running its kitchen on firewood since Tuesday evening. "There are about 2,200 students in our college hostel, and we need 14 to 15 cylinders of gas to prepare three meals a day for them. So, we have resorted to firewood to prepare meals. We have bought enough firewood for about 15 days now. If the situation continues, we do not know what to do next," said Bheemesha Arya, principal.

The hostel at BMS College of Engineering in the city has started running its kitchen on firewood since Tuesday evening. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Some colleges which have switched to alternative sources of fuel are better off. St. Joseph's College hostel, for instance, switched to biogas many years ago. "We produce it using the waste generated on the campus every day. It is used for cooking in the hostel. But since the biogas flame is not as bright as LPG, cooking is delayed. But for now, we have no other options. Therefore, we have stopped making food items like idlis, dosa, and deep-fried items that require a lot of gas. We are making foods like chitranna, puliyogare, and others. If the situation continues like this, we will have to buy firewood," said Rev. Far. Arvind, St. Joseph's College hostel in-charge. Some college managements have decided to purchase electric and induction stoves.

"An indent has been submitted for the purchase of electric and induction stoves. This will help students make noodles and other things themselves easily," said B. Narasimha Murthy, vice-principal of CMR Institute of Technology.

The Paying Guest Owners' Association has announced measures to ensure that the PG residents in the city continue to receive meals without disruption and to stretch existing gas reserves.

According to Arun Kumar, the association president, the association's core committee has directed owners to implement a 'crisis menu,' which focuses on reducing high-consumption cooking. The menu will include items such as salad and raw food dishes that require minimal or no fire. "Close to 80% of the PGs are dependent on LPG for cooking. Usually, dishes like poori, paddu, and so on are provided to PG residents. But in the current situation, we have suggested that owners look at dishes that can be cooked in one go without requiring multiple items on the side," he said.

Gas trouble

Struggle over gas: Protesters using firewood to cook food at Freedom park in Bengaluru on Wednesday; people wait with cylinders in long queues in front of an LPG cylinder agency office in Vijayapura on Wednesday; out of stock board displayed in front of CNG fuel pump at Sheshadripuram in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN, RAJENDRA SINGH HAJERI

State Assembly witnesses uproar as Congress and BJP trade barbs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Wednesday witnessed an uproar over the crisis in commercial LPG cylinders, with the ruling Congress blaming the Centre's policies while the Opposition BJP accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of supporting hoteliers' decision to shut down operations.

During Zero Hour, H.D. Ranganath (Kunigal) of the Congress drew attention to the LPG issue and claimed that a domestic cylinder which earlier cost ₹900 is now priced at ₹1,800. He also alleged that a commercial cylinder that used to cost ₹2,000 is now being sold for ₹4,000, and blamed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "weak foreign policy", triggering protests from BJP members.

'What has Modi said?'

BJP members objected to the Congress "politicising" the LPG crisis, which they said had been caused by external factors.

At this point, RDPR and IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, responding to the Opposition, questioned the relevance of the NDA government's economic and foreign policies. "Where is Modi? Has he said anything? Mr. Modi wishes the Indian team, but why is he not talking about this issue? Why did you invoke the Essential Commodities Act (ESMA)?" he asked, criticising the NDA government over the current crisis.

Immediately, BJP members rose in protest. V. Sunil Kumar (BJP) intervened and said that many countries were facing similar problems due to the war. "We are also worried," he said, adding that the Congress government was not capable of solving many of its own problems in the State. He further alleged that sand was not available in coastal districts, there were server problems in government offices, medicines were unavailable in hospitals, and the government was unable to pay salaries to employees.

An irked Mr. Siddaramaiah criticised the Centre for increasing cylinder prices and invoking ESMA provisions.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleged that the Chief Minister had "incited" hoteliers to shut down their businesses as a mark of protest. Mr. Ashok said that the Chief Minister had asked hoteliers to go on strike – a charge Mr. Siddaramaiah strongly denied. "All I said to the press was that the hoteliers' stand to protest was justified. I did not incite them," the CM said.

Muniyappa's response

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister K.H. Muniyappa, who chaired a meeting with oil and gas companies – including Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum, Hindustan Petroleum and GAIL (India) Limited – said there was no shortage of domestic LPG cylinders in Karnataka. However, he noted that the supply of commercial cylinders could face disruptions.

The Minister explained that the ongoing conflict in West Asia had disrupted international shipping routes, particularly in the Gulf region. However, he clarified that domestic LPG supplies would remain stable and urged consumers not to panic or hoard cylinders. To monitor the situation closely, he said senior officials of the department would hold weekly review meetings with oil companies.

He added that a 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinder can last about one-and-a-half months for a family of four to five members if used carefully. The department would take all necessary steps to prevent major disruptions in LPG supply, he said, urging consumers not to panic or engage in hoarding.

In a rare instance, BJP members applauded Mr. Muniyappa's statement by thumping their desks.

Groups to prevent human-wildlife conflict linked to elephant deaths

Anti-depredation squads were formed in villages to incentivise communities to join the Forest Department to respond to elephants; however, the searchlights and firecrackers used to drive elephants away possibly created a 'landscape of fear', forcing them to stray into more dangerous situations

Mridula Chari
MUMBAI

Villagers trying to chase away a herd of wild elephants resting in Bholaguri tea garden in Sonitpur district of Assam in September 2014. RITU RAJ KONWAR

A long-standing intervention by the Assam government to reduce crop depredation by elephants in its forest regions, piloted and designed by environmental non-government organisation World Wildlife Fund (WWF), is actually associated with more accidental elephant deaths, a study in *Conservation Biology* has reported.

Launched in 2003 in Sonitpur district, the anti-depredation squads (ADS) of Assam coordinated local villagers and the Forest Department to guard their fields and collectively chase elephants away. The squads' aim was to find safety in numbers for humans while averting direct conflict that could result in elephants being killed by traps or poaching. Versions of this kind of guarding exist across the world.

Assam scaled up the ADS' presence in 2008 and continues to launch new squads even today. They are a part of official national guidelines to deal with human-elephant conflicts and are also present in West Bengal, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh. A 2019 review by the Union Environment Ministry, of the various ways in which people can respond to human-elephant conflicts, noted ADS operations were "not systematic" and that "local mobs" firing shots towards elephants reduced their effectiveness.

Using data of 20 years of elephant deaths in Sonitpur, mapped alongside the presence of ADSs in villages in the area in this period, the study found a nearly 2-3x increase in accidental elephant deaths associated with villages that had ADSs than the ones that didn't. The elephants didn't die due to direct conflict with villagers but were found in ditches or trenches, electrocuted, or had veered into the paths of oncoming trains. The study revealed no discernible impact on human mortality.

Nitin Sekar, lead author of the study, said the results went against their original hypothesis: "All of us were prepared for the evidence to show no effect on mortality. We were hoping it would reduce human and elephant mortality. But this was a surprise."

Mr. Sekar began the analysis when he was National Lead for elephant conservation at WWF-India, with the idea of statistically pinpointing the impact of ADSs. He is now a director at Conservation X Labs.

E. Somanathan, professor at the Economics and Planning Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, and head of the Centre for Research on Economics of Climate, Food, Energy and Environment, designed the statistical analysis in the study. He said the increase in deaths, while statistically conclusive, may not have been directly evident to people in the field, who believed the intervention reduced elephant as well as human mortality.

"The whole purpose of WWF-India's interventions is conservation so they were not expecting this," Mr. Somanathan said.

While the team was prepared for the data to not be good enough to draw one conclusion or the other, they didn't expect the actual finding.

"It is a 200% increase in the death rate from conflicts of elephants," Mr. Somanathan said. "A doubling or tripling is a big effect. This is a big enough number that it warrants careful examination of the programme. People chasing away elephants has to be given a second look. The programme should think carefully about how it is being done."

Though the study began in 2019, the authors added multiple controls to their data to account for other mitigating factors, leading to a longer time before it was published.

'Raises more questions'

The paper said, "Although at odds with one of the hypotheses underpinning the ADS program, this finding is consistent with the concerns of several experts on human-elephant conflicts."

Pranav Chanchani, head of species conservation, and Aritra Kshettry, national lead for elephant conservation at WWF-India, however cautioned that the link between elephant deaths and ADS actions were tenuous.

"The ADS study found a strong association between ADS 'presence' and elephant mortality data, and thus raises important questions about prevalent human-elephant conflict management strategies," Mr. Chanchani and Ms. Kshettry wrote in an email.

"But there are also several key gaps in the ADS study that limit direct attribution or causal inference, and so the study likely raises more questions than it answers."

Organised guarding

Assam is home to more than 5,000 wild elephants, the second largest population of the large mammals in India. Sonitpur, in north-central Assam, is a part of one of five priority landscapes for elephant conservation as identified by the Elephant Task Force in 2010 – and home to around 1.9 million people.

When the WWF conceptualised the ADS in 2003, there had already been a decade-long history of lost forest cover, Mr. Chanchani and Ms. Kshettry said. Elephants displaced from their habitats began to range over crop lands, tea plantations, and the banks of the Brahmaputra river, among other landscapes. The locals harassed and chased them, leading to higher mortality for both. The WWF believed that if ADSs organised guarding activities, it could reduce overall elephant mortality instead of leaving communities to their own devices.

ADSs were formed in villages where there had been recent incidents of crop raiding, incentivising the community to join hands with the widely mistrusted Forest Department to respond to elephants together. Each ADS had 10-15 male volunteers, who were given searchlights and firecrackers to keep elephants at bay. Department officials cooperated with ADSs and used information from them to drive elephants away from fields.

Per the new study, however, the sound and light possibly created what it called a "landscape of fear", forcing elephants to lose caution and stray into more dangerous situations. "Although caution is prudent given the modest sample sizes and uncertain quality of postmortem data in the region, these findings suggest that, in communities with ADSs, elephants may have been less likely to notice hazards, such as a ditch, lethal wire or an oncoming train because they were too frightened or distracted by those pursuing them (or perhaps even by the perceived greater likelihood of pursuit)," the paper read.

Assam houses more than 5,000 wild elephants, the second largest population of the mammals in India. NITIN SEKAR/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Given the proliferation of anti-depredation squads across India, the study raises concerns about the effectiveness of such interventions and questions about why this outcome hadn't been detected earlier

Mr. Chanchani and Ms. Kshettry however also cautioned that while data for elephant mortality was taken from across many years, ADSs are active only in the cropping season, which means some deaths may have been incorrectly attributed to ADS activity. They also said the study had no ground-truthing.

Developing controls

The study used 20 years of data gathered by WWF-India's ground team in Assam and human and elephant mortality data by the Forest Department. Given that the hypothesis was that ADSs would reduce elephant mortality, the researchers tried to reject many alternative explanations.

The agricultural area within a village draws elephants more because it could seem to offer more nutrition than foraging in forest areas. By adjusting for this, the study could account for whether there had been a higher than usual presence of elephants in the area. The second and third variables were the fraction of area around a village composed of elephant natural habitat and changes in the distance from the village to areas accessible to elephants on elephant movement paths. The study also accounted for an increase in the population of humans and for the intensity of lights at night, a common proxy for the extent of development.

The researchers also factored in other variables. For instance, ADSs were likely to start in villages where there had recently been incidents of conflict. Since human or elephant deaths are not that common in these events, a further incident immediately after the launch of an ADS would be unlikely, since one would have just occurred. This might have been interpreted as being a result of the ADS itself.

So in the analysis, the team excluded the year an ADS was formed as well as the two preceding years from the comparison with death rates in years with an active ADS. When they found that the result was an increase rather than a decrease in elephant deaths, they also excluded only the year in which an ADS was formed from the comparison with death rates in years with an active ADS. The result was similar, Mr. Somanathan explained.

Another bias they addressed was that of underreporting – because of bad relations villagers typically had with the Department. With the ADSs mending these ties, it could be that there were the same number of deaths and that more were now being officially counted. When the study included a control for the potential undercounting bias, there was still an overall increase in elephant mortality associated with ADSs.

Due to lack of data, the study was unable to account for whether ADSs have been able to protect more crops than before.

Pause and check

Given the proliferation of anti-depredation squads across India, the study raises serious concerns about the effectiveness of such interventions – and raises questions about why this outcome hadn't been detected earlier.

"We are talking about 14 additional deaths in as many years," Mr. Sekar said. "ADSs are active for months on end over many years. The only way you can find this connection is through statistics. It seems highly unlikely to me that someone in the field could have detected this effect."

Both Mr. Sekar and Mr. Somanathan called for a re-evaluation of this and other interventions to reduce human-elephant conflict, including electrified fences and using sound and light in innovative ways.

"This is a good example of why we need more evaluations," Mr. Sekar said. "We shouldn't be rapidly expanding an intervention without evaluating its effect. It is also generally ideal not to make any big policy decisions based on one study. The best next step would be prompt, rigorous evaluation of ADSs by other groups."

Mr. Chanchani and Ms. Kshettry agreed that there was a need for further study – while noting that ADSs have also consistently been evolving to match ground needs.

"We believe that it will be prudent to pursue a strategy wherein ADSs adaptively hone their actions, especially in relation to chasing," they wrote. "Unless data to the contrary becomes available, we think it unlikely that the alternative (disorganised chasing) will have better outcomes for people and elephants."

(Mridula Chari is an independent journalist based in Mumbai. mridula.chari@gmail.com)

SpaceX's Starship launches during a test flight on November 18, 2023. SpaceX has launched its Starship system 11 times since 2023. AFP

'Delays in Starship risk NASA's moon landing plan'

Reuters

SpaceX's Starship has accumulated at least two years of development delays since NASA picked the rocket as an astronaut moon lander in 2021, and is expected to require more time to clear remaining hurdles before landing on the moon, NASA's inspector general said on Tuesday as the agency studies plans to speed up the programme.

NASA has been working with an array of companies, most prominently Elon Musk's SpaceX and Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin, in its multibillion-dollar Artemis programme to kickstart routine astronaut missions to the moon, pressed to do so before China sends its own crews to the lunar surface by around 2030.

Among the most challenging steps in Starship's path to become an astronaut-rated lunar lander is its requirement to refuel itself in space

But mounting delays in SpaceX's development of Starship – tapped as the programme's first lander to deliver NASA astronauts to the moon – have gradually pushed back what was originally a 2024 target moon landing, though officials at the time treated 2024 with scepticism.

Among the most challenging steps in Starship's path to become an astronaut-rated lunar lander, Tuesday's report said, is the rocket's requirement to refuel itself in space before journeying the rest of the way to the moon, a risky and delicate process never attempted at such a scale. For one Starship to land a crew of astronauts on the moon, SpaceX will first need to launch more than 11 other Starships into the earth's orbit that will act as refueling tankers. One of these Starships will be a propellant storage depot requiring more than 10 Starships to fill with enough fuel that will be transferred to the Starship that will land on the moon.

Taller than a 15-storey building, Starship is fuelled by roughly 1,200 tonnes of liquid methane and liquid oxygen, two highly explosive propellants that must be kept at cryogenic temperatures, or temperatures below –150 °C. Docking Starships together and carefully transferring super-cooled propellants at least 10 times in low-earth orbit – a politically and commercially vital region of space with a soaring level of satellite traffic – would be among the riskiest challenges for a company that has already rendered orbital rocket landings and astronaut launches to the International Space Station routine.

NASA officials overseeing Starship development "considers demonstrating cryogenic propellant transfer to be one of the most significant technical challenges facing" SpaceX, the report said. "NASA is tracking a top risk that some of the cryogenic technologies and capabilities SpaceX is developing will not be adequately mature" ahead of a 2028 moon landing, the report said.

SpaceX has launched its Starship system 11 times since 2023. NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman had recently reconfigured the Artemis III mission into a low-earth orbit test flight in a bid to accelerate the programme by standardising rocket configurations and reducing the number of uncrewed test flights required of its commercial partners.

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for 'Science', please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Science'

THURSDAY
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Day 1

13th March 2026

2.30–4.15 PM • Parallel Country Sessions

4:30–5:45 PM • Plenary Session — Brand Mohali

Day 2

14th March 2026

11:00 AM–12:15 PM • Plenary Session — Academia & Research

11:00 AM–12:00 PM • Textile (Apparels & Technical Textiles) | Aerospace & Defence | Bicycle & e-Bikes | Startups

12:30–01:30 PM • Auto & Auto Components & EVs | Heavy Machinery & Agri-Implements | Tourism & Hospitality | Cattle Feed & Dairy Processing | Textile: Spinning & Weaving | Hospitals & Healthcare

02:30–03:45 PM • Plenary Session — Exports & Logistics

02:30–03:30 PM • Renewable Energy | Agri & Food Processing | Plastic & Chemical Products

04:00–5:00 PM • Sports & Leather Goods | Steel & Rolling Mills | Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology | Textile: Dyeing & Finishing | Hand & Machine Tools, Power Tools | Electronic System Design & Manufacturing

05:15–06:30 PM • Plenary Session- Artificial Intelligence

Day 3

15th March 2026

10:00–11:15 AM • Plenary Session — MSME

10:00–11:00 AM • Media & Entertainment | IT/ITeS and Furniture & Ply Industry

12:00–1:30 PM • Valedictory Session

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SFC report: Bengaluru needs 1,074 km of new roads in four years

The commission has recommended that the govt. allocate funds to the new city corporations to meet this requirement by taking up at least 250 km of road construction every year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru currently has a road network of nearly 13,000 km, which has remained stagnant for more than a decade, as per the report. FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru will require 1,074.05 km of additional road network over the next four years, the Fifth State Finance Commission noted in its report. The commission has recommended that the government allocate funds to the new city corporations to meet this requirement by taking up at least 250 km of road construction every year.

The recommendation follows the requirement proposals submitted by the city corporations, aimed at addressing congestion in the city. Bengaluru currently has a road network of nearly 13,000 km, which has remained stagnant for more than a decade. Meanwhile, the number of vehicles has doubled in the last decade and has reached nearly 1.3 crore. About 1,500 new vehicles are added in the city every day.

According to the commission, the East City Corporation requires 311 km of roads, the North City Corporation 160.35 km, the South City Corporation 480 km, and the Central City Corporation 122.70 km. Strangely, the West City Corporation, which covers the largest area among the city corporations, has stated that it has no requirement.

V. Ravichandar, a member of the Brand Bengaluru Committee, said that adding to the road network is desirable, but the feasibility and cost of land acquisition need to be reckoned with. "If the corporations are planning to complete the street grid where it is absent, especially in the eastern part of the city and the city periphery, then it is good. Road widening is desirable in select areas," he said.

A senior official from the North City Corporation told *The Hindu* that the proposal largely includes developing 'kuccha' roads, so there will not be much of a problem of acquisition. "The exercise is essentially to expand connectivity and eliminate congestion points. The proposal was drafted taking into account inputs from engineers' field notes and ward-level inputs," the official added. The officer explained that the expansion will allow commuters to have alternatives to a given road in a specific area. This will help address micro-level congestion.

Ultimately, the corporations are aiming to increase road density per sq. km (the total length of all roads within a one-square-kilometre area), enabling commuters to move freely and avoid bottlenecks by alleviating traffic.

Traffic police sources said that addressing micro-level congestion will automatically have an impact on arterial and sub-arterial roads because the load on these roads will be shared as people start using alternative routes as well.

However, officials suggested that when the works are taken up, it would be better to include traffic police officers as well, as high-priority roads can be identified and then developed, which will culminate in on-ground change. For example, the West City Corporation has not submitted its requirement, but there is significant scope for improvement in Kamakshipalya, Peenya, and Gorguntepalya, traffic police sources said.

SFC report on road network

Corporation	Required road network
North City Corporation	160.35 km
South City Corporation	480 km
East City Corporation	311 km
Central City Corporation	122.70 km
West City Corporation	0 km

SFC recommendation based on requirement proposals submitted by the corporations

HC notice on plea against scheme for regularising 'illegal' digital advertisement hoardings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered the issue of notice to the State government and the Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) on a PIL petition complaining of "mushrooming" of self-advertisement/signage electronic/digital hoardings being "illegally" used to display commercial advertisements, and the recent rules providing One Time Opportunity (OTO) to convert such illegal self-advertisement hoardings to commercial ones.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order on the petition filed by 84-year-old K. Laxmana, a retired Union government servant and a social worker.

Three-month window

The petitioner has specifically challenged Rule 8(7)(vii) of the Greater Bengaluru Area (Advertisement) Rules, 2025, and a subsequent Government Order dated February 4, 2026, which provides a three-month window – ending in April 2026 – for existing self-advertisement hoardings to be converted into commercial advertisement hoardings upon payment of prescribed fees.

It has been claimed in the petition that most of these electronic hoardings on private properties were erected during a total ban imposed earlier on commercial hoardings in 2018 following the High Court's intervention. Later, the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council had unanimously passed a resolution banning commercial hoardings on private properties and public rights-of-way to maintain the city's aesthetics and safety, leading to the BBMP Outdoor Signage and Public Messaging Bye-Laws, 2018, the petitioner has said.

Despite this ban, the GBA allegedly continued granting permissions for electronic/digital self-advertisements hoardings, meant only for on-site business identification and publicity and not for displaying any other publicity materials, in flagrant violation of Section 158 of the BBMP Act, 2020, which mandates the Chief Commissioner's written permission.

The petitioner contends the OTO scheme is "manifestly arbitrary and unconstitutional" as it rewards violators by legitimising illegal hoardings currently used for commercial purposes in breach of their original permissions for self-advertisement only.

It also bypasses the competitive bidding process mandated for commercial advertisements under new regulations, creating an unfair advantage for those who violated the law, it has been claimed in the petition.

Accident risks

Also, the petitioner has contended that bright, frequently changing LED/LCDs on these electronic/digital hoardings distract motorists and pedestrians, posing accident risks. While characterising these digital hoardings as "visual pollution", the petitioner has said that this amounts to infringement of the right to the environment guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Bescom seeks RWAs' coordination on promoting rooftop solar installations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Solar panels installed on top of an apartment building in J P Nagar. FILE PHOTO

The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Ltd. (Bescom) has requested Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Apartment Owners' Associations to work with the utility to promote rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

During a meeting, N. Shivashankar, Managing Director, Bescom, said, "The RWAs and apartment associations can play a crucial role in encouraging residents to adopt rooftop solar systems. He called on the representatives to cooperate with the Bescom to ensure the implementation of the scheme across Bengaluru". He also directed the Bescom field officers to coordinate with members of the apartment associations and resident groups in the coming days, engage with residents, create awareness about the scheme and provide guidance on the installation process. A total rooftop solar capacity of 4.87 MW has already been installed under the scheme in the Bescom's jurisdiction, and 137 applications have been received so far, the Bescom said.

25-qubit quantum computing system installed at IIIT-Dharwad, Raichur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday announced the installation of QpiAI Indus, a 25-qubit quantum computing system, at the Quantum Computing Center of Excellence (QCCE) at the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) in Dharwad and Raichur. QpiAI-Indus is a 25-qubit, superconducting quantum computer developed by Bengaluru-based start-up QpiAI in April 2025 as part of India's National Quantum Mission.

The QpiAI Indus system would be leveraged for educational use, supporting curriculum development, hands-on student training, and faculty-led research as well as commercial workloads, enabling enterprises and innovators to experiment with and apply quantum computing to real-world problems. QpiAI will also provide ongoing support to help IIIT-Dharwad users onboard, develop applications, and operationalise use cases across research and industry engagements.

> The installation is a direct outcome of our Karnataka Quantum Roadmap
>
> **PRIYANK KHARGE**
> Minister for IT/BT & Rural Development

The installation would be QpiAI's second deployment in Karnataka, strengthening the State's growing quantum ecosystem and expanding access to quantum computing capabilities for academia and industry in India, said a press release.

According to it, the initiative, under the Local Economy Acceleration Programme (LEAP), aligns with the State's efforts to build next-generation technology infrastructure under the Karnataka Quantum Roadmap and further positions Karnataka as a leading hub for energy emerging technologies.

Minister for IT/BT & Rural Development Priyank Kharge said, "The installation of QpiAI Indus at IIIT-Dharwad's Quantum Computing Centre of Excellence is a direct outcome of our Karnataka Quantum Roadmap, and it reflects our philosophy of building real infrastructure."

With this, Karnataka has two quantum computing installations, the Minister said adding, the State's centres of excellence, from agritech to space tech would form the bedrock of its innovation ecosystem, and quantum computing was the next frontier.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAR. 12		
RISE	06:29	SET 18:30
RISE	01:12	SET 12:37
FRIDAY, MAR. 13		
RISE	06:28	SET 18:30
RISE	02:03	SET 13:31
SATURDAY, MAR. 14		
RISE	06:28	SET 18:30
RISE	02:52	SET 14:25

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	34	20

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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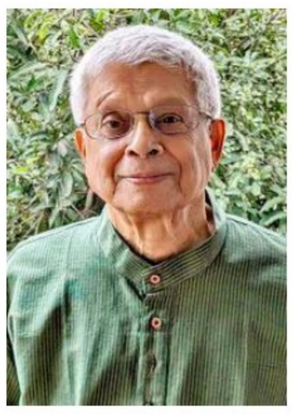
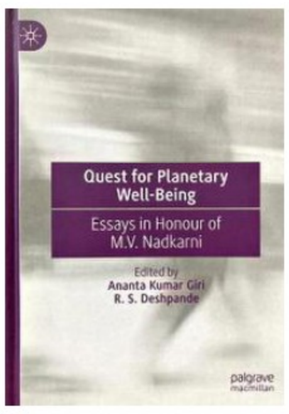


M. V. Nadkarni



The cover of *Quest for Planetary Well-Being. Essays in Honour of M.V. Nadkarni*, edited by Ananta Kumar Giri and R.S. Deshpande. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As nations across the globe grapple with wars, ecological destruction, and a market-centric approach to garner more profits and achieve dominance, *Quest for Planetary Well-Being: Essays in Honour of M. V. Nadkarni*, a volume published by Palgrave Macmillan, emphasises that human well-being is inseparable from the vitality of the planet itself, and provides ethical dimensions to curb human greed.

The book, edited by two social scientists – Professors Ananta Giri and R.S. Deshpande – is a festschrift to economist M.V. Nadkarni (MVN), whose academic work spans economics, sociology, political economy, environment, ethics, religion, and Gandhian thought. His signature clothing is a khadi kurta.

Prof. MVN, a former Vice-Chancellor of Gulbarga University, who turned 87 on February 23, has to his credit 40 books and over 150 papers in academic journals and edited volumes in India and abroad.

29 essays

Quest for Planetary Well-Being: Essays in Honour of M.V. Nadkarni contains 29 essays extending over 600 pages in three major parts, reflecting the overall health and resilience of the earth's inter-connected systems. These well-researched essays cover intrinsic ecological, social, and economic issues that have a strong bearing on humanity's ability to flourish within those boundaries.

The book asks: What does it mean to live well together on a fragile planet? It highlights that wealth and well-being arise in society more from co-operation and complementarity than from competition. This is true not only at the individual level, but also among communities and countries.

Sudha Reddy, director of the Eco Foundation for Sustainable Alternatives, Bengaluru, said of the book, "It invites us to rethink economics, development, and progress through the lenses of ethics, care, and interconnected life – human and more than human."

Ethics

At the core of this volume lies Prof. MVN's lifelong belief that economics cannot be separated from ethics.

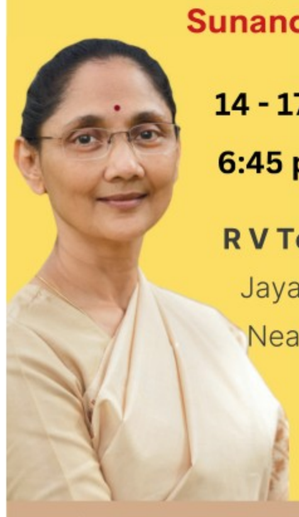
The economist always advocated that 'basic material needs of all should be met as a priority. But needs go beyond *roti, kapda aur makaan* (food, clothing, and shelter), and include good health, education, and a healthy environment as well. They also legitimately cover security of life and property, self-respect, and freedom. It is not unethical to seek comforts, which make life worth living. But this should be possible for all, and not just a few. All should have opportunities to realise the full potential of their personalities".

Each essay is well argued in its own way and reminds readers of the well-known Kannada poet Da. Ra. Bendre. In a poem on flowers, he observes: *Ondarolu ondilla, ondarolu kundilla, Ondondu andavoo tanatanage chanda* (Each is unique; none has a blemish! Each one's beauty has its own flourish!)

The book was released at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru, in the presence of the editors, noted economists, and ISEC Chairperson Dr. Ashok Dalwai, a retired IAS officer.

CINEMA ❖ ARTS ❖ EVENTS
MISCELLANEOUS

BHAGAVAD GITA
Chapter 5
The Yoga of Renunciation of Action
Discourse in English
by
Sunandaji



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Near Lalbagh Metro Station
Bengaluru
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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT. LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Pension-related grievances received in 2025

1,07,731 More than one lakh pension-related grievances were received online through the CPENGRAMS platform last year, the Lok Sabha was informed. The Ministry of Defence, Department of Financial Services (Banking Division) and Ministry of Railways received the highest number of grievances. PTI

Number of traffic challans issued in Mumbai in 2025

20.38 in lakh. In a written reply to a question in the legislative council, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis said that the police in Mumbai issued challans to 20,38,440 motorists last year. Of these, 10,46,819 challans were issued for wrong parking. More than 4.34 lakh motorists were given traffic tickets for jumping signals. PTI

'Nano-tech' roads that failed in Arunachal Pradesh

37 Arunachal Pradesh Rural Works Department Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona informed the Assembly that 37 out of 42 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana roads constructed using 'nanotechnology' have failed. The technology faced challenges because of hill terrain, slopes, unstable geology, monsoon rainfall, landslides and erosion-prone conditions. PTI

U.S. military personnel wounded in the Iran war

140 About 140 U.S. military personnel have been wounded in attacks since the start of the war against Iran, the Pentagon said on Tuesday. "The vast majority of these injuries have been minor, and 108 service members have already returned to duty," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement. Seven U.S. military personnel were also killed. AFP

Number of vacant posts in Central Armed Police Forces

93,139 In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai presented vacancies data in the paramilitary forces, showing that the Central Reserve Police Force has the highest number of vacancies at 27,400, followed by the CISF with 28,342 posts. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A revision of GDP and its implications

The revised GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year shows a reduction in the absolute size of GDP and some changes in the production structure of the economy; while the correction in GDP size appears welcome, it remains unclear whether the revision addresses the red flags raised about the 2011-12 series

ECONOMIC NOTES

R. Nagaraj
Vikash Vaibhav

Annual gross domestic product (GDP) is the sum of the final value of all goods and services produced during a year, net of material inputs. It is the most widely used measure of a country's economic size. GDP, or the economy's gross value added (GVA), is an estimate prepared using a wide range of data on physical outputs and their prices, and this involves numerous statistical procedures. The estimates broadly follow the global templates of the UN System of National Accounts (UNSNA). The latest revision, with base year 2022-23, follows its 2025 edition.

Roughly every five to ten years, the base year for National Accounts Statistics (NAS) is revised. This includes GDP estimates and other aggregates such as national savings, consumption, and investment.

The revision accounts for changes in what an economy produces and its prices. As the economy expands, the mix of goods and services produced – and their prices – changes. These shifts affect the "real size" of the economy, that is, excluding price rise. Revising the NAS is therefore a complex and massive task, undertaken periodically by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of every country.

Awaited revision

This time, the release of the revised NAS was eagerly awaited as it was being issued after 11 years. The previous revision, with the base year 2011-12 and released in 2015, had prompted many data users – both official and independent analysts – to question the veracity of the GDP estimates.

For some sectors, such as manufacturing, the annual growth rates in the 2011-12 base-year series (when compared with earlier estimates) were not only higher, but the direction of change was also different.

The economic structure reported in the 2011-12 base year series also looked quite different from earlier structures. For example, the size of the non-financial private corporate sector (PCS) estimated in the 2011-12 series was much bigger than reported previously. Many experts have repeatedly shown that the official GDP growth rates based on the 2011-12 series during the last decade or so are distinctly overestimated. More recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its review of the quality of economic statistics of its member countries, awarded India a 'C' grade for the quality of its NAS, much to the country's embarrassment.

Against this backdrop, the recently released GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year acquired considerable significance. What are the main changes in the new series and why? Here, we will discuss the changes in GDP estimates from the production, reserving a similar discussion on consumption (or expenditure) and prices for another day. Two kinds of comparisons are reported at current prices: first, the annual percentage change between the latest estimates (2022-23 series) and the previous estimates based on the 2011-12 series for the overlapping years 2022-23 and 2023-24; and second, the changes in the GDP shares of principal sectors between the two series for the same years.

Recasting the economy

After an 11-year gap, the National Statistical Office has released a revised GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year, underlining changes in the economy's size and structure

Chart 1: Decline in size of the economy (%)

(As compared to GDP of 2011-12 series)

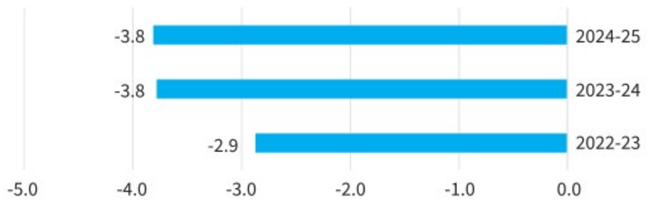


Chart 2: Nominal GDP growth rates for the two series (%)

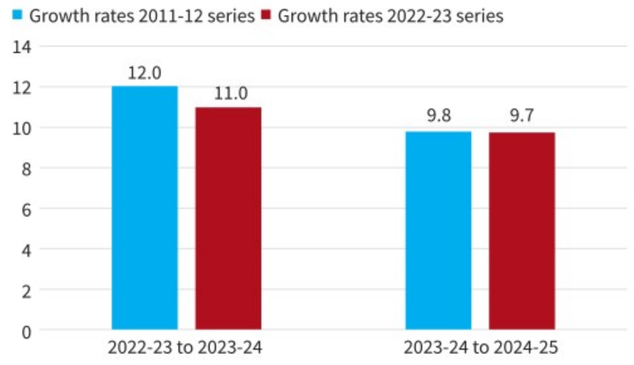


Chart 3: Sectoral shares for 2022-23 (As % of GVA)

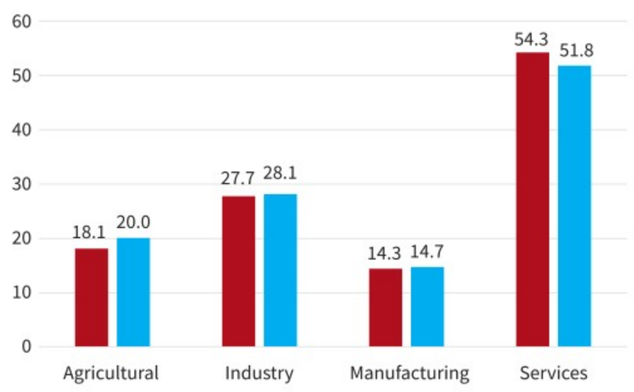


Chart 4: Decline in sectoral GVA shares

(As compared to sectoral GVA shares of 2011-12 series) 2023-24 2022-23

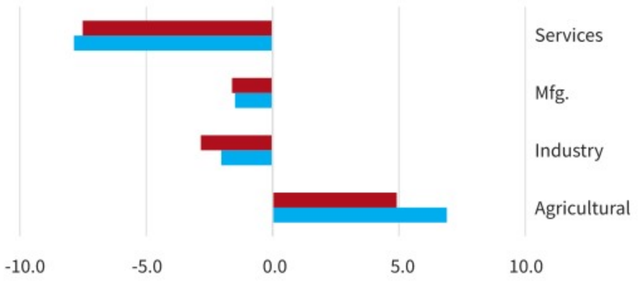
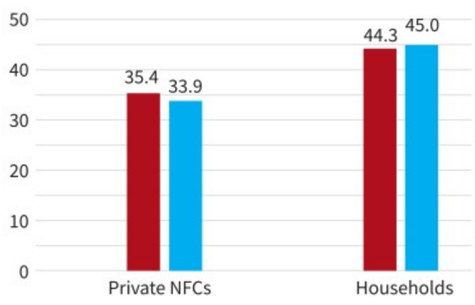


Chart 5: Institutional classification of output 2022-2023

(As % of GVA)

2011-12 series
2022-23 series



THE GIST

- The National Statistical Office released a new GDP series with 2022-23 as the base year after an 11-year gap, amid public questioning of the veracity of the 2011-12 series.
- The revised estimates show GDP size declining by about 3-4%, with sectoral composition changing slightly — higher shares for agriculture and industry and a decline in the services sector share.
- GDP by institutions indicates a modest contraction in the non-financial private corporate sector and a rise in the household or informal sector's share, but it remains unclear whether the revision addresses all the red flags raised earlier, pending further methodological details.

Key findings

The revised estimates show that GDP's absolute size has shrunk by about 3-4% in the new series compared with the earlier one **(Figure 1)**. However, the annual growth rates by the new and the old series are not very different (plus or minus one percentage point) **(Figure 2)**.

The production structure has also changed somewhat. The GDP shares of agriculture and industry (or the secondary sector) have increased, while the share of services has declined. Within the industry, the share of manufacturing has marginally increased to 14.7% of the economy from 14.3% previously **(Figure 3)**.

At the same time, the absolute size of the manufacturing sector has shrunk by about 1.5-1.6% when compared with the previous series **(Figure 4)**. This decline, though marginal, is significant because this sector was central to much debate during the previous revision.

In terms of institutional classification of GDP, the share of the non-financial private corporate sector (PCS) has declined by 1.5 percentage points, from 35.4% in the earlier series to 33.9% in the new series for 2022-23. This drop is steeper for 2023-24, with a gap of 3.4 percentage points. This change is significant as the size of the PCS in GDP was much debated after the previous revision **(Figure 5)**.

The household or informal sector's share in the economy has increased marginally compared with the 2011-12 series – by 0.7 percentage points in 2022-23 and by 2.7 percentage points in 2023-24. The rise in the new series is partly or entirely on account of agriculture **(Figure 5)** (smaller sectors are ignored for brevity).

Many experts have shown that the official GDP growth rates based on the 2011-12 series during the last decade or so are distinctly overestimated. More recently, the IMF, in its review of the quality of economic statistics of its member countries, awarded India a 'C' grade for the quality of its NAS

Interpreting changes

In principle, rebasing the NAS should not change the absolute size of GDP at current prices, because the underlying economy being measured remains the same. If anything, the revision could enlarge the absolute size, as newer estimates – obtained using better data sets and methods – are expected to capture new activities or those that were inadequately captured earlier. Hence, on the face of it, the reduction in the absolute GDP size in the new series appears surprising. However, as mentioned earlier, given the widely held view of the overestimation of GDP growth rates in the earlier series, the observed reduction may represent a welcome correction.

Such a correction – though it may appear minor – implies changes to our understanding of the economy's performance. For instance, with the reduced (or corrected) GDP size, the goal of attaining a five-trillion-dollar economy, a target set by the Prime Minister in 2019, might be further delayed.

While the correction in the absolute economic size is welcome, it remains unclear whether the revision has addressed all the red flags raised with respect to the 2011-12 series. Likewise, it is not yet clear if the latest revision tackles the questions raised by the IMF in its review.

From what we know, the changes made seem to at least partially look into the issues raised. However, it is possible that the slower or faster growth rates reported in the new series may merely be on account of methodological changes introduced, or a newer dataset used or application of a newer "rates and ratios". Hence, a release of more methodological details of the revision for a fuller assessment of the veracity of the new GDP series is awaited.

(R. Nagaraj was formerly with Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR), Mumbai; Vikash Vaibhav is with OP Jindal Global University, Sonepat)

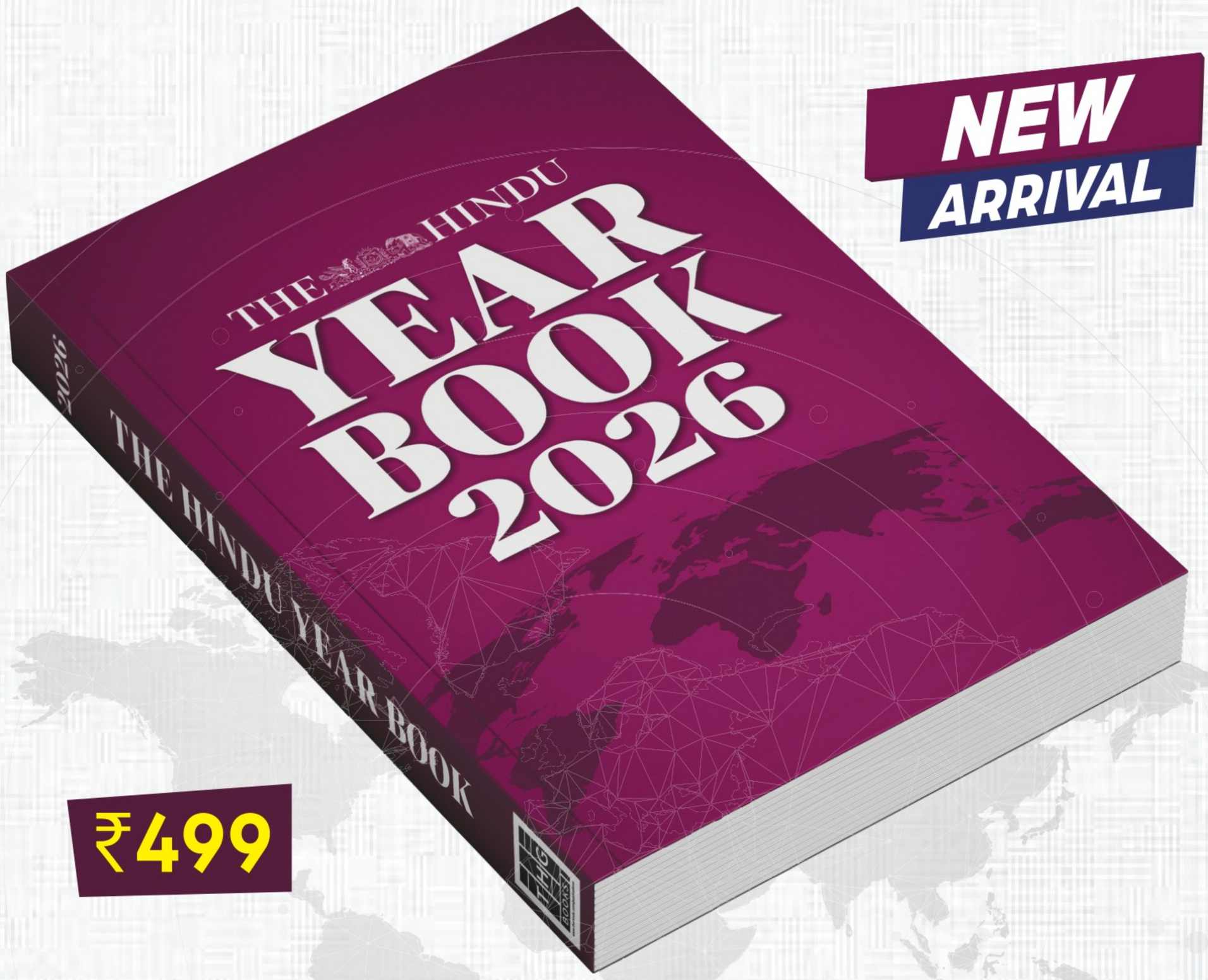
THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

The Hindu Year Book 2026

provides chronological, contextual, and factual information on the key events that occupied public attention **between January and December 2025.**

It features a Calendar of Events with Profiles of People, and Data on India and the World. Expert essays cover critical topics such as like AI and the Indus Waters Treaty, while dedicated sections analyse global governance, economy, and sports through evocative photographs and factual reporting.



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UPS batteries stolen from traffic signal in Electronics City; probe on

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Electronics City police have registered a case against unknown persons for allegedly stealing 10 UPS batteries used for traffic signals, streetlights, and surveillance cameras in the Electronics City area in the early hours of February 25.

According to the complaint filed by S.R. Jayachandra, a supervisor working for a private company engaged in maintenance of these utilities, six UPS batteries had been kept in an iron box near Hokel Company Road, and four batteries were placed along the roadside near Sharathpura Main Road.

In the early hours of February 25, around 3 a.m., the streetlights, cameras, and traffic signals installed in the area suddenly stopped functioning. Technicians were called to inspect the system around 7.30 a.m., during which it was discovered that all ten UPS batteries were missing. Suspecting theft, the company officials verified the matter with their senior management before approaching the Electronics City Police Station to lodge a complaint. The police have registered a case and are probing the theft.

This is the second incident, as traffic signal batteries were stolen on February 9, when six batteries from Hosa Road and Konappana Agrahara junctions. These thefts, often by organised groups selling them as scrap, cause significant traffic disruption.

BU conducts online exams for distance education students for the first time

Around 870 students appeared for the exams from their homes; of this, 697 students were from Bengaluru, 123 were from other parts of Karnataka, and 48 from other States

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Recognising that some students may not have access to computers at home, facilities were arranged on the Jnana Bharathi campus to support these students. FILE PHOTO

The Directorate of Online and Distance Education (DODE) at Bangalore University conducted its first-ever online examination for undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) online and distance education courses on Wednesday, marking a significant milestone in the university's efforts to modernise and expand access to higher education.

Around 870 students appeared for these examinations online from their homes. Among the registered candidates, 697 students were from Bengaluru, 123 were from other parts of Karnataka, and 48 students were from other States. In addition, one candidate wrote the examination in Dubai, and another in Australia. There were more women than men among them.

All classes for these students were conducted online from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., making it convenient for working professionals.

To ensure transparency, credibility, and academic integrity, the university monitored the entire examination process using advanced artificial intelligence-based tools, along with manual proctoring. Question papers were made available online at the scheduled time, and students wrote their answers using the prescribed printed answer booklets. After completing the examination, students scanned and uploaded their answer scripts to the portal, which will then be evaluated by the Examination Section of Bangalore University.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Prof. Muralidhara B.L., Director of DODE, said, "The University Grants Commission (UGC) has allowed us to conduct UG and PG exams online, and this is the first time we have done so successfully. Since we also had students from outside the district, outside the state, and abroad who had registered for the exam, we decided to conduct it online. This is a descriptive-type exam and not an objective-type exam. All students were sent 32-page answer booklets in advance. They had to take the in-camera exam from their homes or workplaces. Question papers were sent online 10 minutes before the exam started. Students viewed the questions on their computers, wrote their answers on the answer sheets, then scanned and uploaded them to the portal," he said.

Proctors appointed

To further strengthen monitoring, 45 trained manual proctors had been assigned through a random allocation by the system to supervise students throughout the examination period. This hybrid model of AI-enabled monitoring and human proctoring ensures fairness and reliability in the examination process, the university said.

One proctor was appointed for every 25 students to ensure the exam was conducted smoothly. A portal with AI-enabled software was used for this exam. This software meticulously monitored the movements of the students and sent information to the proctors. Therefore, no examination malpractice was possible.

"If any student is caught engaging in malpractice, action will be taken according to the rules," warned Prof. Muralidhara.

Recognising that some students may not have access to laptops or desktop computers at home, computer facilities were arranged on the Jnanabharathi campus to support these students and ensure that no candidate is disadvantaged.

Academic excellence in public universities needed to compete with foreign varsities: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

If government universities fail to maintain higher academic standards, they will face setbacks from private and foreign universities, said Higher Education Minister Dr. M.C. Sudhakar.

He was speaking at an event where Karnataka State Higher Education Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the British Council in India to strengthen collaboration in education, skills, and cultural exchange.

"Universities in the State will increasingly face competition from foreign institutions. In this light, maintaining high academic standards has become essential. Only when our universities become academically stronger can our students receive quality education," the Minister said.

New opportunities

Through this agreement, opportunities will be created to strengthen research, skill development, and digital libraries at six universities across the State, he added.

Dr. Sudhakar noted that the Karnataka government has successfully implemented several agreements with universities in the U.K. aimed at advancing education while keeping the interests of students in mind. Since a large number of students in our universities come from rural backgrounds, collaborations with international universities will provide them with broader academic exposure and opportunities, Dr. Sudhakar said.

Speaking on the occasion, Alison Barrett, Country Director, British Council in India, said that the continued partnership was fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening academic collaboration.

PG medical final round: Seats allotted to 39 candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The results of the seat allotment for the continued stray vacancy round of postgraduate (PG) medical course admissions were announced on Wednesday. A total of 39 candidates have been allotted seats, according to Islavuddin Gadyal, Administrative Officer of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

744 seats vacant

He explained that 744 seats are still remaining vacant after this round of seat allotment.

Candidates who had not yet been allotted seats were given the entire day to submit their course fee demand draft (DD) or cheque and enter their options.

A total of 55 candidates submitted DDs/cheques, but only 41 candidates actually entered their options. Therefore, only those candidates were considered for seat allotment and the results were announced accordingly.

'Report on March 12'

Candidates who have been allotted seats must report to their respective colleges by 5.30 p.m. on March 12, he added.

ABB deepens its footprint in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

ABB, a tech player in electrification and automation, on Wednesday said it was expanding its manufacturing footprint in Peenya with greenfield campuses and shop floors, new product line expansions, training centres, and precision equipment manufacturing across businesses. ABB Group CEO Morten Wierod led the groundbreaking of a new integrated Motion facility in Peenya.

The Swiss firm inaugurated its Electrification and Automation Nelamangala Campus 2 on Kunigal Road.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANKIT NAMDEO S/o Shailendra Kumar Namdeo have changed the name of my 8 Months old minor son from ARJUNN NAMDEO to SAHAJ NAMDEO presently R/o F–402 Krishna Mystiq Chikkathogur main road Pragathi Nagar Basapura Bengaluru–560100 having permanent address at Ward No 5 Lohiya Ward Tower Colony Gali No 1 Pipariya Madhya Pradesh–461775 Vide affidavit dated 10.03.2026, notary, V Ganesh Rao

LOST & FOUND

I, BINCY Rajan, R/at No.23, 5th G cross, P & T Layout, Horamavu Main Road, Banaswadi, Bangalore-560043 have lost my Diploma in General Nursing and Midwifery Registration Certificate bearing Register No.47964 dated 10th March 2006 issued by Kerala Nurses and Midwives Council. If found please contact the above address or call: 9741933440.

CORRIGENDUM

In Notice published in THE HINDU on 11.03.2026 in the matter of Hon'ble 57th Additional City Civil Court, Mayo hall, at Bangalore between Sri. D.Prakash Kumar (Plaintiff) and Smt. Sophia Riyaz Khan & Another (Defendant), please read the O.S no as O.S.25117/2025 instead of O.S.2511/20245.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
K.T.Anand, Advocate,
No.07, Charles Campbell Road,
Cox Town Extension,
Bangalore - 560005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Clients are negotiating with **Mr. Rajkumar C. Rathod, Mrs. Mili Ravi Rathod, Ms. Hashvi Ravi Rathod** and **Mr. Reet Ravi Rathod** of Bangalore, having their address at No.15, "Rathod House", Race Course Road, Madhavanagara, Bangalore - 560 001, ("the intending Vendors") for purchasing from the intending Vendors, property as more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("Schedule of Property")

Any persons having any objections, claim, against, in, to or upon the Schedule Property and on the any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, maintenance, possession, tenancy, lease, leave and license, lien or otherwise howsoever or otherwise having an objection to the sale and transfer of the Schedule Property by the intending Vendors in favour of our clients are hereby requested to make the same known in writing along with supporting documents of such claim or objection to the undersigned at LEXARCH LEGAL, No.1, Shankar House, 3rd Floor, Mekhri Circle, RMV Extension, Sadashiva Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 080, within a period of 10 (Ten) days from the date of this publication of this notice, failing which it shall be construed and accepted by our Clients that there does not exist any such claim and objection; and the same shall be construed as having been non-existence / waived/abandoned; and our Clients shall thereupon proceed to acquire the Schedule Property from the intending Vendors notwithstanding any claim or objection.

:SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:

All that piece and parcel of the Residentially converted land bearing GBA E-PID No. 2630640604, in Sy. No. 16, measuring East to West 136 X 160.147 feet and North to South 41.45 X 48.81 feet, totally measuring 21,780 square feet or (2023.43 square meters), situated at Nagasandra Village, Yeshavantapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, now within the administrative jurisdiction of the Bangalore North City Corporation and bounded on:

East by : Remaining Portion of Survey No.16 belonging to Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta;
West by : Remaining Portion of Survey No.16 belonging to Mr. Rajkumar Gupta;
North by: Road;
South by: Road.

For LEXARCH LEGAL
Advocates,
No.1, Shankar House, 3rd Floor, Mekhri Circle, RMV Extn., Sadashiva Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 080.
Contact No. +91- 63643 23566 / 96639 33448
Email: admin@lexarchlegal.com
Bangalore Date:11/03/2026

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மின்னணு ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி முறையில் (E-Tender)
காலி கடை மனை மற்றும் பள்ளி மனை விற்பனை
தமிழ்நாடு மத்திய கலால் மற்றும் சுங்கவரித்துறை பணியாளர் கூட்டுறவு வீடு கட்டும் சங்கத்திற்குச் சொந்தமான காலி கடை மனை மற்றும் பள்ளி மனை விற்பனை மின்னணு ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி (E-Tender) மூலம் விற்பனைக்கு உள்ளது. விருப்ப மனு செய்ய கீழ்க்கண்ட இணையதள முகவரியில் பதிவிறக்கம் செய்துகொள்ள கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறோம்.
- இணைய முகவரி: **https://tntenders.gov.in**
- விண்ணப்பிக்க கடைசி தேதி : **15.04.2026** மாலை **3.00** மணி வரை.
- ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி திறக்கப்படும் தேதி: **16.04.2026** மாலை **3.30** மணி.

இடம்: சென்னை நாள்: 11.03.2026 | மொதொஇ/1736/ஒப்பந்தப்புள்ளி /2026 | அதிகாரப்பூர்வ அலுவலர் / செயலாளர்

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813; GSTIN:03AAFCP5120Q1ZC
website : www.pspcl.in, Contact No. 0175-2213038
Tender Enquiry No. (RfS No.) 61/PSPCL/1000MWh/ELEC/ED-1861/(BESS-3) Dt: 10.03.2026
Office of SE/Electrical, Thermal (D), T-4, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala-147001, invites bids for setting up 500 MW/1000 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in Punjab under Tariff-Based Global Competitive Bidding on INR/kWh basis without VGF (followed by e-reverse auction) on INR/kWh basis without VGF. For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com**.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://www.bharat-electronictender.com** only.
C 368/26 1079/12/2025-26/9329

REVENUE DEPARTMENT
ATALJI JANASNEHI DIRECTORATE
SSLR BUILDING, K.R.CIRCLE, BENGALURU-560001
No: AJSD/Tender/E-2087281/2025-26 Date: 11/03/2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for procurement of **899 FINGER PRINT READERS** to Atalji Janasnehi Kendras, Revenue Department, Bangalore. The e-Tender No: **AJSD/2025-26/IND0006** Tender documents and related information can be obtained from e-Procurement portal - **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **12-03-2026.**
Sd/- Additional Director,
Atalji Janasnehi Directorate, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/SMCL/6196/25-26

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN: U40109KA2002SGC030438)
No: BESCOM/GM(A&HR)/BC-50/2524/2024-25 Date: 11.03.2026
NOTIFICATION
In pursuance to KPTCL Employment Notification dated 14.10.2024, the Cut-Off Marks along with the Provisional Selection Lists of Endurance Test qualified candidates selected on merit on the basis of marks secured in the SSLC/10th Standard for the post of Junior Powerman (NKK/KK) in BESCOM is published in website: **https://bescom.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- General Manager (Admin& HR)
Corporate Office, BESCOM, Belaku Bhavan, Bengaluru.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
S. W. M. C. No. A7 / 1231 / 2026
E-Tender Notice
E-Tender is invited Selection of Concessionaire under Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) Model on PPP Mode in single stage two cover system by Superintending Engineer (SWM), in Solid Waste Management Department.
1. **S.W.M.C.No.A7/1231/2026** :- Establishment of 2400 TPD Municipal Waste-to-Energy Facility including Scientific Landfill at Keerappakkam for Chennai- Tambaram-Avadi Cluster Value of work **Rs.1207.00** crores - EMD of **Rs.10.00** crores Prebid Meeting **18.03.2026** at **3.00** pm
2. **S.W.M.C.No.A7/1241/2026** :- Setting up 1000 TPD Waste Handling Facility comprising 700 TPD Compost Processing at Perungudi Dumpsite - Value of work **Rs.140.00** crores - EMD of **Rs.1.00** crores - Prebid Meeting **18.03.2026** at **12.00** noon
Bid submission due date on 21.05.2026 at 3.00 pm
Bid opening date on 22.05.2026 at 4.00 pm
Tenderer can view and download the details of E-Tender from website **http://tntenders.gov.in** from **05.03.2026** onwards.
DIPR / 1716 / Tender / 2026 **Superintending Engineer(SWM)**

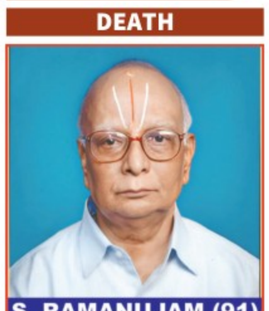
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
Deputy Commissioner's Office, Kalaburagi District
No.RD/CENSUS/36/2025-26 Dated: 11.03.2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tender Document for procurement of Technical Assistant (TA) and Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) for Census of India 2027 in Kalaburagi District
UNDER KTPP ONLINE SYSTEM
Tender Reference : **RD/2025-26/SE0533,** Commencement of issue of Bid document through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka: 10.03.2026, Last date for submitting clarification if any : 18-03-2026 at 5.30 PM, Time and date of opening of tenders: Technical Bid : 20-03-2026 11.00 hrs, Time and date of opening of tenders: Commercial Bid : 25-03-2026 11:00 hrs, Contact Person for queries : AddIn Deputy Commissioner,Kalaburagi DistrictTelephone: 08472-278605, E-Mail: deo.kalaburagi@gmail.com, Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for communication AddIn Deputy Commissioner,Kalaburagi, District, Tender Amount **: Rs.115.71 Lakhs,** EMD Amount : **Rs.1.74 Lakhs (1.5% of Tender Amount)**
Note:- Completed tender shall be uploaded through e-Procurement system only in the manner described under instructions to Tenderers Section I of tender Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated.
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1159/
Deshpande Publicity/2025-26
Sd/- District Census Officer
And Additional Deputy Commissioner
Kalaburagi District, Kalaburagi

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru
Office: 08262 – 230420 Fax: 0862232272 Commissioner : 08262 – 232272 Help Line : 08262 – 232222 E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in Website : www.chickmagalur.gov.in
ಸಂ.ಸಿಎಂಸಿ/ಸಿಕೆಎಂ/ನನಿಕಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/88/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.03.2026
e-Procurement Re Tender Notice
Re Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal in two cover system from Eligible Class Contractors Registered in Public Works Department for implementation of the work mentioned below sanctioned under various schemes for the year 2025-26. Those interested can submit the Tender subject to conditions.

Sl No.	Details of work	Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Reservation	E.M.D. (in Rs.)
1	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT52484/CALL-3	76.20	General	1,29,100.00

Cost of Tender Form–As per e-procurement.Time Period: 06 Months (Excluding Rainy Season)
1. Last date for submission of Tender in e-procurement portal: 24.03.2026 up to 17.00 Hrs. **2**. Date of opening Technical Bid: 26.03.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. **3.** Date of opening Financial Bid: 30.03.2026 at 11.00 Hrs. Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Due to any reason, if there are any changes, they will be published only in e-procurement and will not be published in newspapers. Contractors can view them in KPP Portal.
Sd/- (Smt. B. Sheela Dinesh) President **Sd/- (Smt. Lalitha Ravinaik) Vice President**
City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru. **City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.**
Sd/- (Sri B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.)
Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/ckm/No.186/ksmca/25-26/1993

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation And Ground Water Development Division, Ballari
IFT No. EE/MI & GWDD/Bly/AE-2/2025-26/2244
Date :04.03.2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION (KW-3&4)
On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division Ballari invited the tender for the work of under **Head of Account 4702-Plan-LIS(CMIDP)** Siruguppa taluk 01 works in **Two Cover System Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.71.24 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 03.03.2026 to 10.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 12.03.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 16.03.2026 at 11.00 hours**.And also for **Head of Account 4702-Plan-LIS (CMIDP)** 01 work under Hospet taluk Vijayanagara dist in **Two Cover System Estimated amount put to tender is Rs.119.72 lakhs** the tenderers should download and submitt the tenders from **date : 06.03.2026 to 13.03.2026 upto 17.30 hours. Date & Time of opening Technical Bid is on 16.03.2026 at 11.00 hours. Opening of Financial Bid is on 18.03.2026 at 11.00 hours** Any other information should get by login the website **"KPPP"** website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/1116/KSMCA/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH

S. RAMANUJAM (91)
Retd. EE (Civil), NLC,
Attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on March 11, 2026. # 8/2, 10th Cross St, Sai Gardens, Dhandeeswaram Nagar, Velachery, Chennai 600042.
R.Srinivasan 98844 66777
R.Jaganathan 94442 01977
R.Vasudevan 96771 94754

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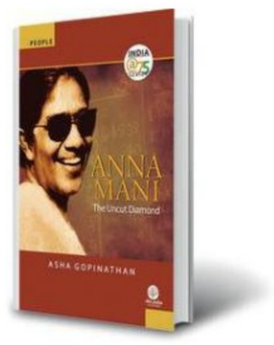
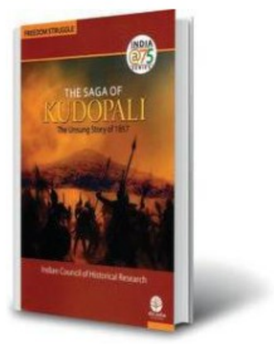
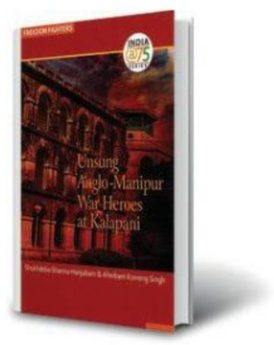






GETTY IMAGES

The National Book Trust's India@75 series brings forgotten figures into the limelight

From woman scientist Anna Mani to unsung freedom fighters, the books are works of scholarship and storytelling intended to inspire the younger generation and reflect on momentous journeys

Soma Basu

One of the walls of the Kerala State Science and Technology Museum Innovation Hub in Thiruvananthapuram has photographs of famous scientists, including Charles Darwin, Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein, C.V. Raman, S. Chandrasekhar, Homi Bhabha, and Stephen Hawking. In the long wall of honour, meant to inspire children, Marie Curie is the only woman scientist who finds space.

The Matilda effect and its impact on women in science are neither new nor unknown. A decade ago, neuroscientist and writer-researcher Asha Gopinathan coordinated the Cafe Scientifique, a series of science workshops in the same city, in which a young audience fell silent when asked to name a woman in science.

However, when a lone voice uttered Marie Curie, Gopinathan felt the need to study and unravel the life of two trailblazing scientists from Kerala: Janaki Ammal, a botanist who pioneered plant breeding, and Anna Mani, a physicist who made India self-reliant in meteorology, solar radiation, and wind energy.

Two women scientists

It was not that people had forgotten the two women scientists; they simply did not know about them. This was Gopinathan's attempt to document the struggles and achievements of women scientists who have been overlooked and denied public recognition.

Her first book, *Anna Mani: The Uncut Diamond*, was released at the New Delhi Book Fair earlier this year, marking a turning point in changing public perception about women in science. The book brings to light the genius, dedication, and perseverance of Anna Mani. It establishes her as the weather woman of India, who designed and standardised more than 100 weather instruments.

Aimed at young adults, the book, Gopinathan hopes, will help people understand, remember, and respect Anna Mani's achievements in the context of her family background, the times she grew up, and the wider world in which she was an important player.

Published by the National Book Trust (NBT) under its series India@75, the book is a powerful reminder that behind every achievement, there is a passionate individual who struggles, dreams big, and overcomes adversity, and yet may fail to exist in public memory.

'Act of recovery'

Gopinathan calls her book "an act of recovery" and shines a light on Anna Mani's brilliant contribution to measuring weather and atmospheric ozone, as well as to renewable energy and spectroscopy. She writes how Anna Mani described herself as "the right person in the wrong place". The words bear the weight of gender bias and barriers that women scientists of her generation faced.

The author wonders why people like Anna Mani do not feature in school textbooks or why their photographs are not seen in museums along with those of famous male scientists. The silence speaks loudly and therefore, the book matters. Both Gopinathan and the NBT deserve applause for documenting and preserving an iconic scientist's contributions. The hard work that has gone into researching archival details shows on every page.

From the pages of history

Biographies help to understand the nuanced history of different eras and the socio-economic and cultural contexts during specific periods in history. On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in 2023, the NBT launched its India@75 series categorised into four sections: people, places, events, and themes.

Under the People series, the organisation has so far published 60 titles so far. These are divided into people-achievers (such as Anna Mani; hockey player Dhyan Chand; liberal thinker, author, and diplomat Minoo Masani; journalist Motilal Ghose, who advocated for the rights of Indian farmers, and Karnataka's folk heroine Rani Chennamma) and books on both well-known and lesser-known freedom fighters from the pages of history.

Innovatively introducing the series as 'Book Box' and standardising the format, cover design, and layout, the NBT plans to publish biographies of 75 freedom fighters by the end of the year.

Other categories in the pipeline include major events of national significance, such as the 1971 war, the 1983 Cricket World Cup, and the White and the Green Revolution in India.

The books written by NBT's pool of authors, researchers, and scholars are published in English and 22 regional languages, making it a rich repository of knowledge and diverse cultural perspectives.

Some of the interesting titles include *The Saga of Kudopali: The Unsung Story of 1857*, *Kargil Heroes: Ten Exclusive Inspiring Stories* and *Unsung Anglo-Manipur War Heroes at Kalapani*. These books are as diverse and varied as the ordinary men and women who did much to build the fabric of Indian society. By highlighting their motivations, sacrifices, and vast contributions, the NBT places them centre stage.

With the objective of reflecting on the momentous journeys of pre-and-post independent India, the books are all works of scholarship and storytelling intended to inspire the younger generation. They also come at a time when the NCERT syllabus in school textbooks is being altered, leading to controversies.

By telling the stories of India's soldiers, poets, activists, freedom fighters, and other notable personalities, and by bringing to the fore the making of our cities and movements that helped shape India into a modern nation, the NBT's efforts appear to be a step in the right direction.

Often, the most influential people are those less heard of. Their lives are the true lessons in resilience and adaptability, and reading about them makes one realise that fame and impact are two different things.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Dandi March, led by Mahatma Gandhi, started on March 12, 1930. Here is a quiz on the march

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
How many days did it last?

QUESTION 2
It was done to resist the tax on which commodity?

QUESTION 3
Which places were the start and end points of this march?

QUESTION 4
What was this march also called, owing to the fact that all the people were joining the procession wearing white Khadi?

QUESTION 5
The culmination of the Dandi March led to which eventual consequence?

Visual Question:
Identify this march, parallely held by C. Rajagopalachari. On which coast was it held?
THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This person was to Satyajit Ray what Toshiro Mifune was to Akira Kurosawa and Robert De Niro was to Martin Scorsese. While his filmography is almost entirely in Bengali, he did direct the Hindi feature "Stree ki patra". Name him. **Ans: Soumitra Chatterjee**

2. Name the Chinese ophthalmologist who was one of the first whistleblowers to warn about the initial COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan. **Ans: Li Wenliang**

3. This Olympian legend from India came from a difficult childhood and was even arrested for travelling ticketless in a train as a teenager. Thanks to his entry into the army, he became a major athlete and one of India's pioneering post-Independence achievers in sport. Name him. **Ans: Milkha Singh**

4. Before dying due to COVID-19-related complications, this person sang a song called "Bharath Bhoomi", composed by Ilaiyaraaja and dedicated to frontline workers such as healthcare professionals, police, nurses, etc. Name this legendary playback singer. **Ans: S.P. Balasubramanyam**

5. This cricketer was the first in Test cricket to have scored more than 2,000 runs without a century (highest of 97). Name this former opening batsman who also joined politics and later became a BJP MP and a state government minister? **Ans: Chetan Chauhan**

Visual: This person will be forever remembered for lying to the U.N. Security Council about the presence of "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq. Name him. **Ans: Colin Powell**

Early Birds: Akash Kumar | Piyali Tuli | Sunil Madhavan | Sukdev Shet | Sumana Dutta

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

Why are left-handers called "southpaws"? (B. Krishnaveni, Chennai).

Do you watch baseball? It used to be the practice in the old days to place the pitcher's (bowler's) mound east of the home plate (wickets, shall we say?). As you know, in baseball, a pitcher doesn't come running in to throw the ball at a batsman. Instead, he stands on the mound, winds up and then throws. As he winds up to throw, he swivels. A right-handed pitcher turns to his right and a left-handed pitcher turns to his left. So when he commenced his delivery, a right-handed pitcher faced north and a left-handed one faced south (in the days when the pitcher's mound was placed east of the home plate). Since the left-handed pitcher had the ball in his left hand – "paw" – and he faced south, he was called a "southpaw". As there were only a few left-handed pitchers to begin with, they began to be called "southpaws". From baseball, the term "southpaw" began to be used in other sports as well to refer to left-handers.

Why don't I find the word "banian" in the dictionary? (A. J. Venkatasubramanyam, Chennai).

Some dictionaries do list the word as a variant of "banyan". They define the word as a "loose flannel shirt". Native speakers of English do not use the word "banian" and that is the reason why many dictionaries do not list the word.

What is the meaning of "magnum opus"? (D. Rakesh Naik, Vizianagaram).

A "magnum opus" is an artist's greatest or most important piece of work. The artist may be a painter, writer or composer. The "a" in the first syllable of "magnum" is pronounced like the "a" in "cat", "bat", and "hat". The "u" in both words is like the "a" in "amount" and "china". The "o" in "opus" is like the "o" in "no", "so", and "go". The main stress is on the first syllable of "opus".

What is the difference between "magazine" and "journal"? (P. V. Srinivasan, Chennai).

A magazine is a general term for a periodical, which deals with various subjects. Unlike newspapers, magazines are published either weekly or monthly. They usually contain a large number of photographs.

Like a "magazine", a "journal" – which means a "daily" – is not printed every day. It is normally a monthly/quarterly/half yearly publication on a specialised or learned topic. The articles in a "journal" usually – though not always – tend to be scholarly. A journal tends to be much more serious than a magazine and it is usually produced for people belonging to a particular profession or people with particular interests.

What is the meaning of "hunky-dory"? (Surkesh Lakhwani, Jaipur).

This is an expression used in informal contexts. When you refer to a situation as being "hunky-dory", it implies that everything is fine; that everyone is happy with a particular situation. Here is an example:

Everything was hunky-dory at the party.

Published in The Hindu on November 23, 1999

Word of the day

Vestige:
an indication that something has been present

Synonyms: remnant, trace, residue

Usage: *The village still has a vestige of its old traditions.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/vestigepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /vestɪdʒ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

RERA tribunal rejects BDA's appeal on NPKL

It declared that BDA, insofar as it develops land and allots plots or buildings to the public for a consideration, falls within the definition of a promoter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Development Authority argued that, unlike private developers, it does not operate for profit, but functions in public interest. FILE PHOTO

The Karnataka Real Estate Appellate Tribunal (KREAT) has dismissed an appeal filed by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) challenging an order of the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) directing the board to register the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout (NPKL) project under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

The tribunal rejected the appeal at the stage of admission and confirmed the order passed by the RERA Authority on November 7, 2025.

The order by the tribunal makes it mandatory for the BDA to follow RERA rules, which it had been attempting to avoid by contending that it is a statutory authority regulated by its own Act and rules.

The order is considered crucial for the allottees of BDA sites because the authority had been maintaining that any dispute with the allottees has to be adjudicated in accordance with the BDA (Allotment of Site) Rules, enacted in 1984, and not RERA. Another major implication is that BDA must adhere to the agreements it signs with allottees, similar to private developers, particularly with regard to the due date for handing over possession, and the conditions mentioned in the agreement.

If the agreement provides for monetary compensation in the event of a delay, BDA will be bound to pay the allottees.

This also means that the authority will have to carry out developmental work without delay.

In its order dated November 7, 2025, the RERA had rejected BDA's preliminary objection that RERA lacked jurisdiction over BDA, as it is a 'statutory planning body'. It declared that BDA, insofar as it develops land and allots plots or buildings to members of the public for a consideration, falls within the definition of a 'promoter' under the RERA Act.

It also held that the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout qualifies as a real estate project, and an ongoing project that requires registration under the RERA Act. The authority had directed BDA to register the project within two weeks and submit the necessary project details, including layout approvals, sanctioned plans, development status, financial disclosures, details of internal and external development work, and an inventory of sold and unsold plots.

It had also directed the authority to refrain from marketing, advertising, booking, selling, or offering for sale any villa, plot, or amenity space, and from creating third-party interests in civic amenity sites, open spaces, or roads in the project until the registration is completed.

BDA moves tribunal

Challenging the order, BDA again contended before KREAT that it is a 'planning authority'. It also argued that the NPKL scheme was conceived and the land for it acquired before the enactment of RERA, and, therefore, the project should not fall under the Act.

BDA further submitted that the allotments made are contractual in nature and governed by the BDA (Allotment of Site) Rules, 1984, and that disputes between the authority and allottees should be adjudicated under those rules. It also argued that, unlike private developers, it does not operate for profit, but functions in the public interest. The tribunal, however, held that the definition of 'promoter' under the RERA Act is inclusive, and covers development authorities and public bodies when they develop land or construct buildings for sale to the public. It cited rulings of the Punjab and Haryana High Court in similar matters to uphold RERA's order.

It observed that when BDA develops layouts or apartment complexes, and sells plots or buildings, it falls within the ambit of the Act, and is required to register such projects with the regulatory authority. Holding that provisions of the RERA Act apply to BDA, the tribunal dismissed its appeal, and confirmed the RERA Authority's order. It also rejected BDA's plea to dismiss the complaints before the RERA Authority on the ground of lack of jurisdiction.

'Govt. to decide on NICE project after Cabinet sub-committee report'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Satish Jarkiholi

The State government will decide on the future course of action on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor (NICE) project after a Cabinet sub-committee submits its report, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi told the Legislative Council on Wednesday. Replying to Congress member Ramoji Gowda, the Minister said the project was based on an agreement signed between the State government and the project company in 1992. The agreement envisaged the construction of the Bengaluru-Mysuru road corridor and the development of five townships along the route.

Mired in litigations

However, the project has been mired in litigation for several years and the agreement has not been fully implemented, he said. "In this background, a Cabinet sub-committee headed by the Home Minister has been constituted, which will study the matter comprehensively and then submit a report to the government, based on which further action will be decided," the Minister stated.

Mr. Gowda sought detailed clarification on the terms of the agreement, the period of the concession, and whether it had been renewed. He also asked whether the government had approved the toll fees being collected from the public on the NICE road and whether any committee had been constituted to revise the toll rates. The Minister said the project agreement provides for the collection of toll from vehicles, including two-wheelers, on the corridor. The member also raised concerns over traffic congestion, accidents and lack of maintenance reported on the NICE road, and asked whether the government had taken steps to address these issues. He further sought to know what mechanisms were in place to monitor maintenance of the road, act on complaints from the public, and impose penalties in case of violations by the concessionaire. Mr. Gowda also asked whether the government was considering bringing the NICE road under direct government control or taking steps to reduce toll charges in the future.

Land acquisition

Earlier in the discussion, the member pointed out that nearly 20,193 acres of land had been acquired for the project, including around 13,000 acres earmarked for township development. However, he said the proposed townships had not been developed so far, nor had the land been denotified, even though the implementation period of the project had expired. Given these issues, he urged the government to clarify its stand on the future of the project.

Mr. Jarkiholi said the Cabinet sub-committee would examine the status of the project, contractual obligations, toll collection, maintenance issues and land acquisition before submitting its recommendations, which would guide the government's next steps.

Shivaram Karanth Layout: BDA to seek court's permission to call applications for allotment of sites

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is set to file an affidavit before the Karnataka High Court on Friday, seeking permission to call for applications from interested people for allotment of residential sites in the Shivaram Karanth Layout, according to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Replying to a call attention notice in this regard by BJP member S.R. Vishwanath in the Assembly, Mr. Shivakumar pointed out that applications had not been called for allocation of sites under this layout as it was mired in litigation since 2017. "We have spent about ₹10,000 crore on the formation of the Shivaram Karanth Layout. But due to the delay in calling for applications to allot the sites, the BDA is suffering a loss of ₹1,000 crore a year. If the court permits us to call for applications, then the BDA would start getting money from the allocation of sites," he said.

Meanwhile, the BDA was in the process of developing a software to help allocate compensatory sites to land-losing farmers in Shivaram Karanth Layout, he said.

Farmers were supposed to get developed area measuring close to ₹9,600 sq. ft. in the form of sites for every one acre of land acquired from them if they do not opt for cash compensation. The farmers had requested that the allocation of such compensatory plots should be made next to each other instead of being scattered in different streets. While a decision on their request would be made soon, the proposed software by the BDA would help in the allocation of compensatory sites, he noted.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok demanded the constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to look into the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Vijaya Bank Employees House Building Co-operative Society.

He alleged that the Society had given ₹69 crore collected from 1,700 members to SPR Constructions to buy 125 acres of land in 20015-06. However, the firm did not give the land, though several years had passed, following which the society approached the court which asked the firm to pay ₹188 crore, he noted.

As the firm failed to pay even this amount, even after several years had passed, the court had now asked it to pay ₹644 crore. But some of the officials of the Co-operation Department had colluded with the society's office-bearers to bail out the firm at the cost of members who had paid for sites, he alleged and urged the government to protect the interest of members.

Responding to this, RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge said he would bring the issue to the notice of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Woman booked for attempting to smuggle banned items into Parappana Agrahara central jail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A woman was booked for allegedly attempting to smuggle prohibited items into Parappana Agrahara Central Prison and was caught during a routine security check on Monday.

According to a complaint submitted by prison authorities, a woman staff member of the Karnataka State Industrial Security Force (KSISF), had been assigned to conduct the routine frisking and physical verification of female visitors at around 1 p.m. on March 9. During the inspection, a woman identified as Anusha arrived to meet an undertrial prisoner, UTP No. 5273/2025, Bharat Akiraa. While checking her belongings, the security staff noticed that Anusha had allegedly concealed certain prohibited items inside her inner garments. The items were seized, along with the visitor pass slip, and a report was submitted to senior prison officials. The materials were later verified in the presence of Assistant Superintendent B.R. Andani. Authorities stated that the woman had attempted to smuggle the items, suspected to be ganja, into the prison premises by misleading the security staff.

The woman had attempted to smuggle the items, suspected to be ganja, by misleading the security staff

A case has been registered against Anusha and the undertrial prisoner under Section 42 of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act, 2022 and other relevant provisions.

Prison staff member held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A prison staff member was allegedly held while attempting to carry banned items and cash inside the central prison during a routine security check on March 9.

According to prison authorities, the incident occurred around 6.15 p.m. when the staff member, identified as Prakash Gowda, arrived for duty in the 'C' barrack area.

During a physical check conducted by security personnel, officials recovered ₹1,610 in cash and two suspicious packets wrapped in black tape from his possession.

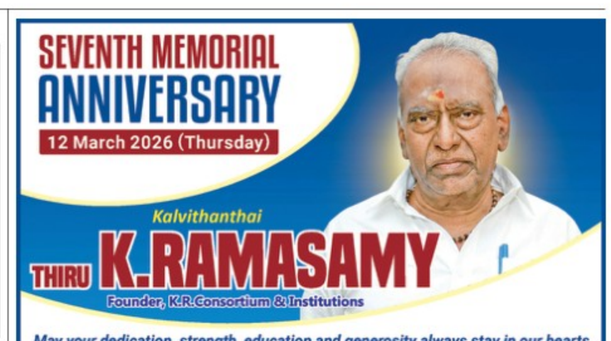
The matter has been reported to senior officers, and further legal action is being initiated.

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE
AGRAM – POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677 | Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for **unserviceable items rec by ASTB Bd** at APS ASC C&C. Last date and time to submit filled quotation is 17 Mar 2026 at 1100 hrs.

P O
For School Mgt


SEVENTH MEMORIAL
ANNIVERSARY
12 March 2026 (Thursday)
Kalvithanthai
THIRU K.RAMASAMY
Founder, K.R.Consortium & Institutions
May your dedication, strength, education and generosity always stay in our hearts
Fondly Remembered by
Family Members, Faculty Members, Employees & Students of
K.R.Consortium & Institutions
K.R.Nagar, Kovilpatti – 628 503.
Founder Kalvithanthai Thiru K. Ramasamy 7th Memorial Lecture on
'Engineering Your Way to the Defence Services: Requirements, Strategy and Opportunities'
by Air Commodore S.Balamurugan VSM
Distinguished Alumnus (Mechanical Engineering 1993-1997 Batch)
Command Engineering Officer, Indian Air Force, Headquarters - Eastern Air Command, Shillong, Meghalaya
12 March 2026 by 11.15 a.m. @ NEC Auditorium
Live webcast @ www.nec.edu.in
Annadanam (Breakfast & Lunch), Cleanliness Mission, Free Basic Health Care Check-up Camp, and Blood Donation Camp are being organized at prominent places in Kovilpatti.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
INDIAN RAILWAY
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

PROFORMA 10.01

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of under noted section of the South Western Railway, that 25000 Volts, 50 Hz AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after the date specified against the section. On and from the same date, the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all the times and no unauthorised person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line between Alamatti - Wandal (LMT-WOL) section from chainage 128/350 to Ch: 137/930 section.

Sl. No.	Section/Yard	Chainage in KM	Probable date of energization
1	Main Line From Alamatti to Wandal Stations	Ch: 128/350 to Ch: 137/930	18.03.2026
2	Almatti, Benal halt & Wandal	Station area and Yards	

PROFORMA 10.02

INDIAN RAILWAY
INTRODUCTION OF AC 25 KV TRACTION
WARNING TOP ROAD USERS

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 KV AC electric traction between Alamatti - Wandal (LMT-WOL) section from chainage 128/350 to Ch: 137/930 of Hubballi Division of the SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY, height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear maximum **height 4.78 Meters** above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire (Contact Wire), which shall be at a height of **minimum 5.5 Meters** above the rail level at level crossings.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the loads carried in road vehicles do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows.

i. Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the Railway Line.
ii. Danger to the materials or equipment carried ot the vehicle itself.
iii. Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact withy or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer, Construction
South Western Railway, Hubballi

Place: Hubballi
Date: 09.03.2026
PUB/987/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/173/2026
Dated : 03-03-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for various construction site / Section (Non-EPC) in the jurisdiction of various Deputy Chief Engineer in Hubballi area. **(Tender Ref. No. PSSA-CN-UBL)**	Rs. 19,90,14,858.38

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs on 02-06-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/982/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2025-26/100
Dated : 03-03-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
(Re-tender) Provision of additional four portal lights for freight train examination for Road 4 & 5 at Sakleshpur (SKLR) Yard. IRPSM ID : 14.03.42.22.4.52.001	Rs. 15,35,806/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs on 24-03-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General
PUB/976/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Mr.Navaneedha Kannan N S/o Mr.G.Natarajan** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Mrs.Priya M W/o Mr.D.Amrut Raj and Mr.Amrut Raj D S/o Mr.A.Dass** ; person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing **Site No.27,** bearing e-PID No.2324094802, Old Katha no.528, Situated at **Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** measuring East to West **43 Feet** and North to South **17.5 Feet** in all measuring **752.5 square feet**, along with Residential house with a Ground floor amenities thereon, presently coming under the limits of BBMP ward no.24 and bounded on :

East by : Road; West by : Private Property; North by : Remaining Portion of Property; South by : Site No.26;

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.
ZONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.e-mail:bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Phone: 080-22110052

SUB: GOLD LOAN – DEMAND NOTICE 11/03/2026

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Shri. YOGESHA G. K who passed away on 17-10-2025 had availed following Gold Loans, after pledging his Gold ornaments.

1. A/c No-17696400040529 from the HSR Layout branch of THE FEDERAL BANK LTD. on 04-09-2025
2. A/c No- 21996400060988 from the Wipro Park branch of THE FEDERAL BANK LTD. on 20-08-2025

If anybody has a claim on the said gold ornaments, please contact the above Branches and remit the entire dues together with interest and other charges due to the Bank and redeem the gold ornaments pledged within 7 days from the date of this Notice, failing which the Bank will be constrained to auction or conduct private sale of gold ornaments pledged without further notice and reference to any such claim which will be considered as waived or abandoned.

Branch: The Federal Bank Ltd., Br. HSR Layout / Wipro Park, Bangalore.
11/03/2026 For **The Federal Bank Ltd., Manager/Senior Manager/Asst. Vice President**

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India **BOI**
BANK OF INDIA - CANTONMENT BRANCH (84040)
Jyoti Mahal, No.49, St. Marks Road, Bangalore (Karnataka) 560001.
Ph : 080-22959474/75 (Admin), 080-22959476 (Credit), 080-22952477 (Forex) Mail: Cantonment.bengaluru@bankofindia.co.in

[Rule - 8 (1)]

POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable Property)

Whereas the undersigned being the **Authorised Officer of Bank of India,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12), read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice Dated 23.12.2025** calling upon the borrower **M/s. SLV Food Products, Represented by its Proprietrix Smt. Dhanalakshmi,** 29/55 Industrial Suburb, Near APMC Yard Yeshwanthpura, Bengaluru, Karnataka, **Proprietor, Smt. Dhanalakshmi, Residing at** No. 18,1st Floor, 8th Main Road, Palace Guttahalli, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560003 and **Guarantor Mr. Damodar Prasad, Residing at** 269 1 Vibrant White Pearl 2nd Floor 302, Kasturba Nagar, Mysore Main Road, Bangalore South, Karnataka to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 3,86,71,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Eighty Six Lakhs Seventy One Thousand)** within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this the **7th day of March 2026.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Bank of India for an amount of **Rs. 3,86,71,000/- (Rupees Three Crore Eighty Six Lakhs Seventy One Thousand)** and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Immovable Assets : All that piece of Land known as plot No. 57 & 58, in the Masthenahalli 2nd Phase, Industrial area comprised in Survey No. 86-Part, 76-Paike within the village limits of Marathalli village Kaiwara Hobli, Chintamani Taluk, Chikkaballapur District, Containing by admeasuring 6001.00 sq.meters or whereabouts and bounded as follows that is to say : Towards **North by :** Plot No. 55 & 58, Towards **South by :** 20M wide KIADB Road No. 03, Towards **East by :** Plot No. 59, Towards **West by :** 18M wide KIADB Road No. 04.

Date : 07-03-2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bengaluru **Bank of India**

IT exports from State set to cross ₹5.5 lakh crore: Minister

Bengaluru Urban tops the list with a contribution of 39.9% to GSDP; Kalaburagi, Bengaluru Rural contribute 1.9% each

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for IT and BT Priyank Kharge speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Karnataka's IT exports are expected to cross ₹5.50 lakh crore in 2025-26, IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge told the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Responding to a question from Vedavyas Kamath of the BJP, Mr. Kharge said the State's IT/BT exports were ₹3.55 lakh crore in 2022-23, ₹4.09 lakh crore in 2023-24, and ₹4.58 lakh crore in 2024-25. "I am 100% confident that this year we will cross ₹5.5 lakh crore in exports," he said.

Of the projected ₹5.5 lakh crore exports, Mysuru contributes around ₹3,000 crore, while Mangaluru and Udupi together contribute around ₹3,500 crore, he said.

By contributing 5.4% to the State Gross Domestic Product (GSDP), Dakshina Kannada district ranks second in the State and has the potential to add another 2% to the GSDP, Mr. Kharge said.

Bengaluru Urban district topped the list with a contribution of 39.9% to the GSDP. Kalaburagi and Bengaluru Rural districts contribute 1.9% each to the GSDP, he said while replying to Mr. Kamath's question on IT services exports and the start-up ecosystem in the coastal region.

Mr. Kharge clarified that he had never said that Mangaluru lacked potential for growth. "The region has huge potential if local leaders create the right climate. We can accelerate the local economy," he said.

Coastal region

Mr. Kamath said that despite challenges, the coastal region stands next only to Bengaluru in economic contribution and sought the Minister's response on the relatively low contribution from districts such as Kalaburagi, which have lower GDP levels.

The Minister explained climatic and geographical factors for growth of different sectors in different parts of the State.

Replying to Kiran Kumar Kodgi of the BJP, Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy said the government would take a decision on upgrading the agriculture diploma college at Brahmavara in Udupi district into an Agricultural Science College based on the recommendations of an expert committee.

The diploma college is attached to the Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga.

V. Sunil Kumar (BJP) said the diploma college already has the required infrastructure such as land and laboratories, and the government only needs to provide faculty to upgrade it into a full-fledged college.

Priyank flags environmental costs in setting up data centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Amid concerns over environmental costs, particularly water and energy consumption, Karnataka is reviewing its policy on data centres, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge informed the State Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Explaining the costs involved in establishing data centres, Mr. Kharge said around ₹70 crore is required to set up one megawatt data centre, and the total power usage, including cooling/infrastructure, is about 1.7 MW of power. About 25 million litres of water per year is required for one MW data centre. However, the actual cost depends on the location and land cost, sources said.

New tech

However, he noted that new technologies are emerging that enable the use of treated water in data centres. "We have to relook at our policy, which is 2 to 3 years old," he said.

Replying to a question from Dheeraj Muniraju of the BJP from Doddaballapur, Mr. Kharge said that 32 private data centres are currently functioning in the State. "We already have a data centre policy, which we are reviewing," he added.

'Necessary evil'

Describing data centres as a "necessary evil", the Minister said they are essential for artificial intelligence, machine learning and other emerging technologies, but they also consume large quantities of water and energy.

Earlier, Mr. Muniraju said Bengaluru was losing out on data centre investments as companies were moving to other Indian cities. Bengaluru currently ranks fifth among Indian cities for data centres, after Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai and Delhi, he said.

Mr. Muniraju noted that several global technology firms have offices in Bengaluru and suggested that their data centres should be retained in the city.

Sustainable policy

Mr. Kharge said the government is working towards a "sustainable data centre" policy and that the focus would be on Mangaluru and other coastal areas. "Hyperscale data centres may not be suitable for Bengaluru, which does not have a port and lacks abundant water resources," he said.

Data centres requiring more than 40 MW of power would fall under the hyperscale category, he added.

The Minister also said discussions were under way with private companies on laying subsea cables in the coastal region. He had written to the Union Telecom Ministry seeking a subsea cable landing station in Mangaluru, and the Ministry had responded positively, stating it would extend support if private companies took up the implementation.

B.R. Patil joins Oppn in criticising shifting of doctors from PHCs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

B.R. Patil

The State government had to face embarrassing moments as senior Congress MLA B.R. Patil joined the Opposition in the Assembly on Wednesday in criticising the government over shifting out doctors from rural Community/Primary Health Centres with lower number of deliveries to urban centres.

The issue was raised through a call attention notice by JD(S) member Sharada Poorya Naryak, who alleged that doctors from a rural Community Health Centre in her constituency had been shifted to urban centres on the grounds that the PHC had reported less than 30 deliveries a month.

Intervening in the discussion, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok said such a situation was not confined to Ms. Nayak's constituency, as doctors had been shifted from rural Community/PHCs which had reported less than 30 deliveries a month to taluk-level hospitals. Mr. B. R. Patil surprised the ruling members by endorsing the Opposition on this issue.

Following widespread concern, Speaker U.T. Khader announced that he would allow a debate on the issue in the coming days.

Periodic revision of guidance value must for fair land compensation: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Krishna Byre Gowda

Periodic revision of land guidance value is necessary to ensure that farmers receive fair compensation during land acquisition and to prevent distortions in land transactions, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Replying to BJP member K.S. Naveen, the Minister said regular revision of guidance value would help bridge the gap between official rates and prevailing market prices, while also reducing the scope for unaccounted cash transactions in land deals.

Pointing to the wide gap between guidance value and market price of land in several parts of Karnataka, he said, "In some areas, the guidance value of land may be around ₹2 lakh while the actual market value ranges between ₹70 lakh and ₹80 lakh. Such a large difference encourages transactions involving unaccounted money."

Periodic revision of guidance value, he said, would help align official values with market realities, curb black money in property transactions, and ensure that farmers receive fair and reasonable compensation when their land is acquired for public projects.

2019 value

Mr. Naveen raised concerns that compensation in several land acquisition cases continues to be calculated based on the 2019 guidance value, even though the State Government had revised the guidance value in 2023. He sought to know whether this had resulted in financial loss to farmers whose land was acquired.

Responding to the query, Mr. Byre Gowda said compensation for land acquisition is determined in accordance with the provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

He explained that once a preliminary notification for land acquisition is issued, the guidance value applicable at that time is considered for calculating compensation.

Subsequent revisions to guidance value cannot be applied to such cases.

Instead, the compensation is determined based on either the existing guidance value at the time of notification or the average value of registered sale deeds in the preceding three years, whichever is higher.

Mr. Naveen, however, argued that using older guidance values as the basis for compensation could result in injustice to farmers, particularly when land prices increase substantially over time.

Acknowledging the concern, Mr. Byre Gowda said delays in revising guidance values could indeed cause hardship to farmers in certain situations.

"The government acquires land for various public purposes. If guidance values are not revised periodically, farmers may suffer losses. That is why we have been advocating revision of guidance values from time to time," the Minister said.

Govt. hopeful of completing 7,110 km rural roads soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is hopeful of completing work on 7,110 km of rural roads selected for rebuilding under the Pragati Patha scheme in the next one-and-a-half years, despite several objections raised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which is funding the project.

Replying to K.M. Shivalinge Gowda (Congress), Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge informed the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday that under the Pragati Patha scheme, the government plans to rebuild 7,110 km of rural roads at a cost of ₹5,180 crore. Of this, the ADB is lending ₹3,242 crore.

A total of 1,353 roads were selected constituency-wise. Of these, the ADB has raised objections to 293 roads. These roads are located in Bengaluru Rural, Chamarajanagar, Chikkamagaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts, Mr. Kharge said.

Detailed project reports have been prepared for 999 roads, and 573 are ready for tendering. Tenders will be floated in the next one-and-a-half months, he said. The ADB has raised objections to roads that pass through reserve forest areas, regions prone to human-animal conflict, migratory bird habitats, and other environmentally sensitive zones, he added.

Mr. Kharge said the ADB team had been informed that the roads proposed for development were not new but had existed for nearly 50 years and were already motorable.

SNIPPETS

Controversy over cover page of Budget booklet

The cover page of the Budget 2026-2027 booklet came under criticism in Legislative Council from the BJP members, who accused the government of using the photo of the skyline of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. According to BJP MLC K.S. Naveen, the use of photograph of Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur was creative bankruptcy. "Why was this photograph used? You could used photograph of Vidhana Soudha or from Bengaluru or some other place here," he said. In response, Congress Member M.R. Seetharam suggested that it was a skyline near Hebbal.

Yettinahole timeline

Bulk water lifted from Yettinahole will be let into tanks in Tumakuru and Kolar districts by October, 2027, Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda told the Legislative Council on Wednesday. He said that the water that will be brought to Tumakuru district will be let into tanks through live pumping. The proposed reservoir in Koratagere to impound 2.5 tmcft is stuck in land acquisition issues, and the construction of reservoir will also take time, the Minister said.

'Corporation funds down'

Acknowledging that the fund allocation to various development corporations had come down in the Budget, Backward Classes Welfare Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi on Wednesday said that he would request Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to increase the allocation.

Retired judge to probe fake diploma certificate row: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy speaking in the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Wednesday told the Legislative Council that the government has ordered an inquiry by a retired judge into allegations that employees in the Transport Department submitted fake diploma certificates to secure promotions.

Replying to JD(S) member T.A. Sharavana, the Minister said preliminary findings suggested irregularities and that the role of the Department of Technical Education would also come under scrutiny.

"On the face of it, irregularities appear to have taken place. It does not involve only the Transport Department. The Technical Education Department also appears to be involved. Retired judge Narayana has already been appointed to conduct an inquiry and a gazette notification has been issued," Mr. Reddy said.

Mr. Sharavana urged the government to initiate action against those who had allegedly submitted fake certificates, citing provisions under the Karnataka Civil Services Rules (KCSR).

He also questioned the manner in which the certificates were issued. "Those who wrote examinations in places such as Mysuru and Belagavi are said to have appeared in Bengaluru within a short span. How was this possible, and how were certificates issued?" he asked.

Mandatory

Providing details, the Minister said a diploma qualification is mandatory for clerical staff seeking promotion to Group C Motor Vehicle Inspector posts. To enable employees to pursue higher studies, the Department had issued an order on October 12, 2022, permitting up to 10% of staff to undertake further education. Accordingly, 17 employees were permitted in 2022-23, 24 in 2023-24, and 15 in 2024-25 to pursue diploma courses.

Of these, two were not Transport Department employees, while two had taken regular leave to pursue studies. Doubts had arisen regarding the certificates submitted by the remaining employees, the Minister said.

Following this, the Transport Commissioner wrote to the Director of Technical Education seeking clarification on the alleged fake certificates. As no satisfactory response was received, notices were issued to the employees on March 3, 2026, seeking explanation. The retired judge-led inquiry will examine the allegations and recommend action against those responsible, the Minister said.

Recruitment of 400 veterinary officers under way: Venkatesh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In addition to the permanent posts, the government has also proposed to appoint another 400 veterinary officers on contract basis. FILE PHOTO

Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh on Wednesday said the process to fill 400 vacant permanent posts of veterinary officers in the State is under way through the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) and the recruitment is expected to be completed shortly.

Replying to BJP members D.S. Arun, Hemalatha Nayak, and S.V. Sankanur in the Legislative Council, the Minister said the appointments would help address the shortage of veterinary doctors in government veterinary hospitals, clinics and mobile veterinary units.

In addition to the permanent posts, the government has also proposed to appoint another 400 veterinary officers on a contract basis, he said, pointing out that the proposal is currently under examination with the Finance Department.

Mr. Venkatesh said that once the vacancies are filled, 50 veterinary officer posts will be allocated to the Kalyana Karnataka region, where there is a shortage of veterinary services.

The members had sought details on the sanctioned strength and vacancies of veterinary doctors, veterinary inspectors and supporting staff in government veterinary hospitals, veterinary clinics and mobile veterinary units across the State and the Kalyana Karnataka region. They also asked the government to furnish district-wise information on vacancies.

The members also asked whether the government had conducted any study on the impact of the shortage of veterinary doctors on farmers and livestock rearers, particularly with regard to cattle disease control, vaccination programmes, milk production and the income of farmers.The Minister also informed the House that mobile veterinary units, which provide treatment to livestock, are currently operated under a Union government scheme and function between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The State government has requested the Centre to consider extending or modifying the operational timings, he added.

HC upholds conviction of ex-MLA in cheque bounce case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.P. Kumaraswamy

The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the judgments of the trial courts in convicting M.P. Kumaraswamy, a former MLA from the Mudigere Assembly Constituency, in eight cheque dishonour cases and sentencing him to pay to the complainant a total amount of ₹1.23 crore, failing which to undergo a simple imprisonment of six months in each case.

"The law is clearly goaded against the petitioner. I do not find any error of jurisdiction or perversity in the orders, to re-appreciate the evidence and come to my own conclusion, other than the evidence that has already been appreciated by the two trial courts," said Justice M. Nagaprasanna dismissing the former legislator's revision petitions.

Special court verdict

A special court of magistrate for the criminal cases against former and present MLAs and MPs on February 13, 2023 convicted Mr. Kumaraswamy on the complaint lodged in 2020 by H.R. Huvappa Gowda, a resident of Chikkamagaluru city.

On July 19, 2023, a special court of sessions for the criminal cases against former and present MLAs and MPs rejected the appeal filed by Mr. Kumaraswamy against the judgment passed by the special court of magistrate. Later, Mr. Kumaraswamy moved the High Court questioning the legality of these two judgments.

However, the High Court found no merit in the petition by pointing out that both the magistrate and the sessions courts have extensively examined the documentary evidence, including bank statements, which clearly demonstrated the financial transactions between the parties. The courts have refused to accept Mr. Kumaraswamy's contention that the complaint was financially incapable of lending such a huge amount of money to him as the former did not provide any evidence in support of such claim.

Mr. Kumaraswamy and Mr. Gowda shared a long acquaintance. In 2018, Mr. Gowda withdrew earlier three cheque-dishonour complaints after receiving partial payment from Mr. Kumaraswamy before the latter contested elections. The complainant later alleged that Mr. Kumaraswamy borrowed more money, issued fresh cheques, and they were dishonoured due to insufficient funds.

DMK has betrayed mandate given by people of T.N.: Modi

Prime Minister says in the DMK rule, everything starts and ends with one family; alleges that the ruling party is infamous for its scientific corruption model used to serve one family

S.Ganesan
TIRUCHI

Sharp attack: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a public meeting organised by the NDA in Tiruchi on Wednesday. M. MOORTHY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday accused the DMK of betraying the mandate given by the people of Tamil Nadu in 2021, instead of treating it as a responsibility.

"In the DMK rule, everything starts and ends with one family. Ministers and MLAs may change; but power remains with only one dynasty. DMK is infamous for its scientific corruption model; today, that same model is being used to serve one family," Mr. Modi said while addressing a public meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Tiruchi.

"A Minister from this very district is involved in a cash-for-jobs scam. When jobs are sold for money, the dreams of the youth are dashed," Mr. Modi said in an oblique reference to the allegations of corruption raised by the Enforcement Directorate against the department of Minister for Municipal Administration K.N. Nehru. "Just as all rivers go to the sea, all the money goes to one family," he alleged.

Taking a critical view of the law and order situation, especially crimes against women, in the State, Mr. Modi said the NDA, if voted to power, would ensure that people, especially women, lived without fear. "Under the DMK government, violent crimes against women have become common," he said.

Mr. Modi also accused the DMK of failing to fulfill its 2021 election promises, including an increase in the minimum support price for paddy. Farmers of the delta region deserved fair prices for their produce, good facilities, and modern storage warehouses. The DMK promised warehouses, but today, farmers are searching for them, he said.

Illegal sand mining is destroying the rivers and threatening the environment. Yet, those responsible for it continue to enjoy the protection, he said.

Mr. Modi said the NDA had big plans for the progress of Tamil Nadu.

BJP disciplinary panel president resigns

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Lingaraj Patil announcing his resignation in Hubballi. KIRAN BAKALE

A day after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced its list of candidates for the Legislative Council election, including West Graduates Constituency, upset over not being considered for the party ticket, BJP State Disciplinary Committee president Lingaraj Patil announced his resignation to the post on Wednesday.

The BJP has announced party ticket to incumbent MLC from West Graduates Constituency S.V. Sankanur belying expectations in the BJP circle about a change of candidate.

The other two BJP candidates are Shashil G. Namoshi for North East Teachers' constituency and K.M. Suresh for the South East Graduates constituency.

'Extremely hurt'

Addressing presspersons in Hubballi on Wednesday, Mr. Lingaraj Patil announced that he was resigning from the post, extremely hurt by the party's decision to field Mr. Sankanur again.

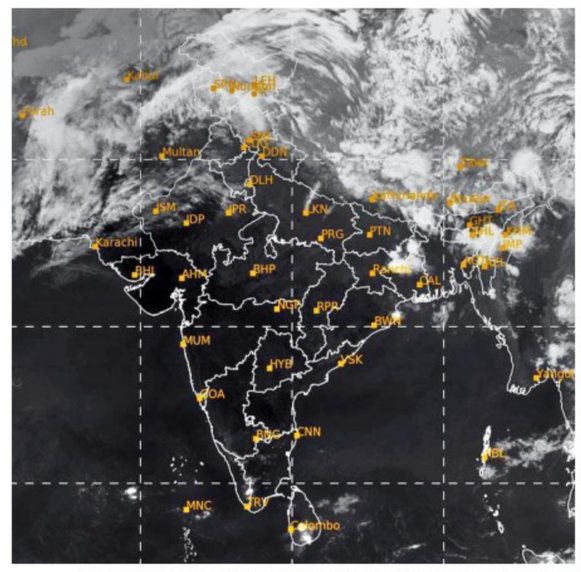
"The party has taken the decision to field him again in spite of objections raised by several members of the party," he said.

He said he had been associated with the BJP for the past 37 years and served the party with sincerity and discipline, but had been treated unfairly.

He said he had tendered his resignation and would wait for eight more days to see whether the party would reconsider its decision.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.3	22.3	Kozhikode	—	34.4	26.7
Ahmedabad	—	41.4	22.5	Kurnool	—	37.7	21.8
Aizawl	—	31.5	18.8	Lucknow	—	34.3	21.9
Allahabad	—	34.8	20.6	Madurai	—	37.0	24.1
Bengaluru	—	32.1	18.5	Mangaluru	—	33.5	24.3
Bhopal	—	36.4	16.0	Mumbai	—	34.2	23.0
Bhubaneswar	—	35.0	23.3	Mysuru	—	33.2	20.0
Chandigarh	—	34.9	15.8	New Delhi	—	36.8	17.8
Chennai	—	34.5	23.0	Patna	—	32.0	24.5
Coimbatore	—	33.4	21.8	Port Blair	—	31.6	25.6
Dehradun	—	32.6	17.0	Puducherry	—	31.0	22.9
Gangtok	—	20.5	14.2	Pune	—	37.8	23.2
Goa	—	33.4	24.8	Raipur	—	38.0	23.3
Guwahati	—	33.6	21.0	Ranchi	—	31.5	19.5
Hubballi	—	36.0	18.0	Shillong	0.6	21.4	13.0
Hyderabad	—	35.7	22.3	Shimla	—	26.2	15.8
Imphal	—	30.7	15.1	Srinagar	1	12.5	10.5
Jaipur	—	37.0	20.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	24.5
Kochi	—	32.4	26.6	Tiruchi	—	35.1	23.0
Kohima	—	20.4	13.7	Vijayawada	—	36.1	20.6
Kolkata	—	31.6	24.2	Visakhapatnam	—	32.1	23.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.96	..86	31	... 137	...151	
Bengaluru	...4	..14	37	... 164	...209	
Chennai	.23	..10	22	... 132	...120	
Delhi	.15	131	41	... 255	...324	
Hyderabad	.15	..14	34	 63	93	
Kolkata	...6	..53	33	 78	93	
Lucknow	.13	..41	37	... 271	...317	
Mumbai	..—	109	70	... 141	...116	
Pune	.28	111	71	... 135	...150	
Visakhapatnam	.35	..89	24	... 113	...142	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Mandideep, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 334 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kohima, Nagaland recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of Karnataka
District Health & Family Welfare Office, Koppal
Phone: 08539-221660 E-Mail : dhokoppal@gmail.com
Ref: DHO/KOPPAL/EST-2/181/2025--26 Date: 10/03/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Subject: Inviting tender through e-procurement for recruitment of Paramedical Staff on Outsourcing basis for the year 2026-27.
Ref : The CEO, ZP Koppal file note approved **Date:24.02.2026.**
With reference to the above subject here by inviting two cover tender for Providing Manpower services to District Health and Family Welfare Office Koppal for the year 2026-27. Tender estimate Amount is **Rs.2,56,94,904/-** and EMD amount is Rs.6,42,372/- and for needful information please contact Office **P.No: 9242142566**. e-procurement Address **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.inTender Number- DHFWS/2025-26/SE2051.**
The Tender documents down loading & submission date as per below information.

Sl.No.	Particulars	Date and time
1	NIT Published Date	10-03-2026 - 10.00am
2	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tenders	10-04-2026 - 05.00pm
3	Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid	13-04-2026 - 11.00am

Sd/- District Health & Family Welfare Officer, Koppal
DIPR/Koppal/743/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಸೊಸೈಟಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ.
ಉತ್ತರ-ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ-581301
No: NHM/HWC/596/25-26. Date: 10.03.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

2025-26ನೇ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.03.2026, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.03.2026ರ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5.30 ರವರೆಗೆ, ಟೆಂಡರನ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ: 1,45,64,000/-, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ.: 2,91,280/-

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಕಾರವಾರ.
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1196/25-26 Dt. 11.03.2026

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(WWM-VV)-1	BWSSB/EE (WWM-VV)-1/PB/ 1629/2025-26 Date: 07.03.2026	Rs.64.86 Lakhs / Rs.1,30,000/-	20.03.2026 upto 5:00 PM	23.03.2026 at 5.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer ((WWM-VV)-1

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/6177/SSC/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)

Item wise tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

(1) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT4006. Dated: 27.02.2026. **Name of the work:** Repair/Reconditioning of Circulating Water Pump Parts (CWP: 1Q Make: BHEL) of Unit-1, 2 (2x500MW) & 3 (1x700MW). **EMD: Rs.59,500/-.** Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: 23.03.2026 upto 16:00 hrs. **Contact:** Executive Engineer (TM), Mobile: +91 94808 30323.

(2) KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT4022. Dated: 05.03.2026. **Name of the work:** Providing water source from Stilling Pond to Reach 05 of BTPS Ash Pond. Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders: 23.03.2026 upto 17:00 hrs. **Contact:** Executive Engineer (AHP-2), Mobile: +91 91416 09479.

(3) KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT3924/Call-3. Dated: 05.03.2026. **Name of the work:** Radiography of Weld Joints of Pressure Parts during annual overhauling works & emergency tube failures of Boiler Unit #1, 2 & 3. **EMD: Rs.59,800/-. Contact:** Executive Engineer (BM), Mobile: +91 94808 30316.

BTPS/KPCL, Kudithini - 583 115, Bellary Dist., Karnataka.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED ELCOT
9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 6640 1400 | itpd@elcot.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. ELCOT-ST-ITP-2026-0017

ELCOT invites E-Tender cum E-Auction of Allotment of Vacant Commercial Plot on Lease basis located at ELCOSEZs of Hosur, Tirunelveli and Madurai - II (3 locations). For further details, please visit **https://tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **24.03.2026, 11.00 AM.** Last date for submission **10.04.2026, 3.00 PM.** For queries: **itpd@elcot.in**
DIPR/1742/Tender/2026 **GENERAL MANAGER (ITP/ITT)**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560051. Email:bswmlee4@gmail.com

No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/27/25-26 Date: 11.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

1. The **Deputy General Manager-2, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru** from eligible bidders for the works detailed in the table below. The Bidders may submit tenders for works given in the table through KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) The Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to bidders to qualify for award of the contract.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl No.	Name of the work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs) Excluding GST	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	Contract completion period
1	MSW Resource Recovery Support and Surrounding Area Infrastructure Works in Mahadevapura Constituency, including facilitation for organic manure production and essential basic infrastructure in and around MSW/legacy waste influence zones.	7205.14	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment under of the following i.e., online/ RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs. 71,05,140/-** by Bank Guarantee/ FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank	As per KPP portal	11 Months

1. Pre bid meeting will be held on **23.03.2026 at 15:00 hours** in office of the **Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (tech), BSWML,** BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru - 52.
2. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document **on or before 16:00 hours on 06.04.2026** and First Folder containing the technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on **07.04.2026 after 16:30 hours** at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
3. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the KPP portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com. KPP portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/ 22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of KPP portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
4. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML
DIPR/CP/AAA/6191/2025-26

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಹುಣಸೂರು
ಸಂ. ಕೃಮಾಇ/ಕೃಉಮಾಸ(ಹು)/498/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ 05.03.2026

(ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ)

ಸಮಿತಿಯ ನಬಾರ್ಡ್ ಆರ್‌ಐಡಿಎಫ್-31 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದಿತ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಒದಗಿಸುವ ಮತ್ತು ಗೋದಾಮು ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. (ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್) ಸಂಬಂಧ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಕಾಯಿದೆ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ತತ್ಸಂಬಂಧವಾಗಿ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಆದೇಶ, ಸುತ್ತೋಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ Standard Tender Documents KW-4 Clause 3 (with latest amendments) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹರಿರುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ E- Tender Website ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.4,18,23,640=08, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ. 6,28,000-00, ಕೆಲಸ ಪೂರೈಸಲು ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಿದ ಅವಧಿ (ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಹೊರತು ಪಡಿಸಿ) 6 ತಿಂಗಳು, ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿ: 30.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ: 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆ ದಿ: 10.04.2026 ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ: 4.30 ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 13.04.2026 ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 16.04.2026 ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Websiteನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಆದಲ್ಲಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಹುಣಸೂರು ಕಛೇರಿ.

ಸಹಿ/-ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಹುಣಸೂರು
ಸಹಿ/-ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ ಹುಣಸೂರು
DIPR/DDMYS/1813/KSMCA/1021/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA,
Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara,
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District.
No:EE/RDWS&SD/HPT/MVS O&M/E-Proc Tender/TS/2025-26/1242 Dated:09.03.2026

E-procurement tender postponement announcement. (KTPP Act-2000)

Reference: 1. This office e-procurement tender notice number: 09/ 2025-26/1156 dated: 20-02-2026 & 2. 1. This office e-procurement tender notice number: 2025-26/1195 dated: 27-02-2026. The tender called for e-tender through the referred notice has been postponed due to various reasons. Government of Karnataka

On behalf of the Governor, the Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet, has invited item-wise tenders from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department and registered in e-Procurement for the works worth Rs.205.16 lakh 02 in Hosapete Taluk and Rs.221.53 lakh 03 in Huvinahadagali Taluk under the MVS O&M Scheme for the year 2025-26, through e-Procurement under the Karnataka Transparency Act 1999 Rules 2000. For more information, the blank tender document can be viewed on the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sl No	Discription	Previously scheduled date	Now postponed date
1	Last date for submission of tenders	16-03-2026 5.00 PM	18-03-2026 5.00 PM
2	E-Procurement Tender Technical Bid Opening Date	17-03-2026 After 5.05 PM	20-03-2026 Morning 11.00 AM
3	E-Procurement Tender Financial Bid Opening Date	20-03-2026 After11.00 AM	24-03-2026 After11.00 AM
4	Preliminary meeting date	10-03-2026 After11.00 AM	13-03-2026 After11.00 AM

Apart from these there will be no further changes to the original tender.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW & S Division, Hospet.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/585

Policy missteps

India has allowed panic over fuel availability to spread

The events unfolding in West Asia have shone a spotlight not only on India's energy security, but also on its policy preparedness and communication strategy in times of crisis. With India importing close to 90% of its oil needs, it is natural that any disruption to supply chains would hit it hard. The Strait of Hormuz is particularly vital in the supply chain. To the government's credit, it has been gradually trying to reduce India's oil import dependence. The push for ethanol and biofuels is a step in this direction. Smoothening their adoption should continue to be a policy priority in the near term. That said, India's dependence on imported oil remains vast and growing, with the economy expanding by 6%-8% every year. Therefore, measures such as ethanol or biofuel-blending are only likely to be of marginal strategic significance. The policies on importing oil need to become more long-term oriented and robust in the face of external pressure. The crisis in West Asia has shown India just how important supplies from Russia are, at a time when New Delhi had been cutting Russian oil imports due to American pressure. In the past, the government had given in to U.S. pressure over Iranian and Venezuelan oil. The U.S. is now encouraging India to import Russian oil again to steady global markets. The U.S.'s 50% tariffs were hard to bear, but India knew that the U.S. Supreme Court was deliberating on the issue, and, so, could have waited a month for its order. As things stand, India may no longer receive a discount for Russian oil, it has squandered Moscow's trust, respect from the U.S. is diminishing, and a trade deal with it remains distant.

Government officials have made anonymous statements saying that fuel prices will not be hiked in response to higher oil prices. This is as much a political necessity as a moral one. After all, fuel prices were not cut over the last two and a half years even when oil prices were comfortably low. The Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), providing LPG connections to households, has also laid bare how policy does not anticipate crises. Households have benefited from the PMUY, but the resultant increase in LPG demand – without a commensurate increase in stable supplies and reserves – has meant that restaurants and hotels are now suffering amid shortages. Finally, the policy of the government to so far communicate only through off-record briefings and occasional tweets has meant panic over fuel availability has spread faster than warranted. Tuesday's inter-ministerial press conference came days late and no questions were taken. Clear, accountable communication was needed, yet missing. The government's crisis communication needs more work.

A seismic decision

India needs a holistic, implementable earthquake zoning framework

The Centre's rollback of the revision to India's earthquake zoning by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), follows a major challenge to the methodology used, which some engineers believe are out of sync with site-based evaluations. Yet, the reversal is driven largely by the massive cost and execution implications, as the decision impacts urban planning, disaster preparedness and climate resilience. The current earthquake zoning exercise is an opportunity to disaster- and climate-proof cityscapes, power infrastructure, dams, highways, and homes and offices as India undertakes an urban infrastructure expansion. Getting the zoning framework right has, arguably, never been more important.

At the heart of the debate lies the scientific approximation of possible earthquakes and their intensities, *vis-à-vis* the preparedness of the built environment to withstand them. Globally, most advanced economies and seismically active regions now use Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA), a dynamic framework that models earthquake risk through probability-based simulations of ground motion. Until now, India has primarily used a simpler fixed zoning model. The BIS's attempt to move toward this globally accepted framework is, therefore, directionally correct. However, some structural engineers and policymakers argue that the revisions, which were notified in November 2025 and withdrawn on March 3, were too stringent. The proposed framework introduced an entirely new top-risk category, Zone VI, covering most of Kashmir, parts of the Himalayan belt, Kutch in Gujarat and the north-east. Urban planners worry that such zoning could stall developmental and infrastructure activity in already economically fragile regions, and potentially push more housing into the informal sector – which already accounts for nearly 80% of India's homes. Estimates suggest that a one-zone increase could raise costs by around 20%, and two zones by nearly one-third. For major infrastructure such as metro rail systems, dams and power stations, the cost implication could be significantly higher. Pushback to the BIS revisions has come from both the private sector and within government, including the Ministries of Housing and Urban Affairs, Home Affairs, the Central Water Commission and the National Dam Safety Authority. Another layer in this debate is climate. The construction sector in India is among its largest dispersed sources of carbon emissions. While a revision in the earthquake zoning framework is necessary, it requires wider consultation across ministries, regulators and industry stakeholders. Only a holistic and implementable framework can strengthen disaster resilience and address climate mitigation, affordability and execution challenges.

Holding up half the sky on India's farms

Madhura Swaminathan

is former Professor, Indian Statistical Institute

Arindam Das

is Joint Director, Foundation for Agrarian Studies

As we celebrated Women's Day on March 8 this year, we also celebrated the International Year of the Woman Farmer (announced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization). It was an opportunity to recognise the contribution of working women to India's agricultural economy. As official statistics do not give a complete picture of the scale of participation, type of work, and economic contribution of women, it is field data that we must turn to. It tells us that while women's labour is central to crop and livestock production, the remuneration to women workers is extremely low and stagnating.

Counting women workers

First and foremost, we lack accurate information on how many women are actually engaged in agriculture, livestock rearing, fisheries and other allied activities. Large-scale labour force surveys (such as the Periodic Labour Force Surveys) are unable to capture women workers accurately because in a largely informal agrarian economy, women's work is often home- or farm-based, unpaid, seasonal, intermittent (even over the course of a single day), and intermingled with care work. For example, a woman respondent may not report herself as a "worker" if her day involves multiple tasks of child care interspersed with animal rearing.

What official labour force surveys tell us is that women's work participation in rural India has risen sharply in recent years. Among rural girls and women aged 15 years and above, 46.5% were in the workforce in 2023-24 as compared to 35% in 2011-12. This still remains lower than the rest of the world: according to the International Labour Office, women's work participation was in the range 57%-63% in a majority of countries.

Hidden behind this statistic that shows a rise in rural women workers lies a less happy reality, namely, that the rise is largely in the count of 'self-employed' women, reflecting a lack of wage employment opportunities. In 2011-12, 60% of rural women workers were classified as self-employed; the proportion rose to 73 per cent in 2023-24. In the same period, the share of women employed as regular and casual wage workers fell. Further, the share of self-employed women working in the agricultural sector rose from 48% to 62%, and, of the total number of self-employed workers in agriculture, women comprised almost one-half (47.2%in 2023-24).

Put together, in 2023-24, there were at least 117.6 million women working in agriculture (of whom 21.7 million were hired workers, 95.1 million were self-employed and 0.8 million were regular workers). The estimated male workforce in agriculture was 127.5 million.

The first sector we consider is crop production. Official statistics cannot tell us the share of women workers in total labour deployed in crop cultivation as gender-disaggregated data on family labour are not collected. We provide an answer with data from village-level surveys conducted by the PARI project of the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (www.fas.org.in/pari). From this unique database of 27 villages, we draw on two villages, Palakurichi and Venmani, from Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu (studied in 2019) and two villages (Harveli and Mahatwar) from western and eastern Uttar Pradesh (studied in 2023).

As a socio-economic classification of households in these villages is available, we focus on the peasantry and manual worker households, who constitute the majority. We have excluded landlord or capitalist farmer households, and those engaged in business or salaried employment.

In the four selected villages, women accounted for about one-third of family labour (except the village in western Uttar Pradesh where it was lower). When family and hired labour are combined, women accounted for the major share in Palakurichi (61%) and Venmani (57%) in Tamil Nadu, and about 41% in Mahatwar village of eastern Uttar Pradesh. These differences arose on account of several factors including crop choice and farming systems, and the socio-economic composition of households. Nevertheless, the key message is that crop cultivation relies heavily on women's labour.

The second sector is livestock rearing, one of the fastest growing sectors within agriculture, and where women constitute the primary work force. The PARI village studies show that in family-based livestock rearing (particularly milch cattle and poultry), most tasks are performed by women. If a household owned cattle, inevitably a woman participated in livestock labour, spending about 2 hours for every animal reared. At last count, 40 million rural households owned milch animals (All India Debt and Investment Survey, 2018-19), suggesting that around 40 million women were engaged in animal rearing.

The third sector is wage labour. As mechanisation has progressed and aggregate demand for labour in agriculture has declined, so has the demand for women's labour. Our estimates show that the share of women workers in total casual labour employment in crop production ranged from 16% to 71% across the four villages, but was more than one-third in all but the western U.P. village (where labour hiring is more complex given the scale of sugarcane cultivation). And, these women hired workers belonged not only to manual labour households but also to the lower rungs of the peasantry.

Women sustain India's farming economy but remain underpaid and undercounted

Earnings and wages

For a workforce of more than 100 million, the question of remuneration is clearly important. What is the level of explicit or implicit earnings obtained by a woman worker in agriculture today?

For wage workers, the prevailing wage rate is observable. At today's prices, a woman worker in agriculture earned less than ₹300 a day in all four villages. The gender gap in wages was higher in those regions with overall higher wage levels. Women's wages (₹290) were less than 50% of male wages in the two villages of Tamil Nadu; in the two villages of Uttar Pradesh, women's wages were lower (₹242-₹276) but so were men's wages and the gender gap was narrower.

Official statistics reveal a similar story. In November 2025, according to the Labour Bureau, the average all-India daily wage for agricultural work (sowing/transplanting/weeding) for a woman was ₹384. There were, of course, variations across States, with women workers in Kerala receiving the highest daily wage (₹646). Furthermore, data show that wages corrected for inflation have barely risen over the last decade.

There are no official data on women's earnings in livestock earnings, and we estimated the implicit daily earning, based on income generated from animals over the year (based on production of milk, dung) and total hours of work. In the two U.P. villages, where milch animals were widely held, the implicit daily earning was around ₹100. In short, women earned only two-fifths of the prevailing agricultural wage rate for their labour in cattle rearing.

Turning to crop production, it is difficult to estimate earnings per worker, as many members of a family may contribute to production. Suffice to note that in all four study villages, the return from crop production was low, averaging less than ₹16,000 a year in the eastern U.P. village and less than ₹24,000 in Palakurichi, the Tamil Nadu village. Even if half the income was apportioned to women, their incomes would not be high.

The picture so far

It is clear that women now constitute about one-half of the agricultural workforce in India (the actual number is likely to be higher for the reasons mentioned above). The majority of rural women were self-employed workers, but only 10% of rural women owned land, the primary asset for a cultivator. Turning to agricultural workers, women workers now (21.7 million) exceed the number of male workers (19.7 million), a first-time occurrence in post-Independence India, but wage rates for women are low in absolute terms, with a few exceptions, and reveal a large gender wage gap.

Women workers hold up half the sky in rural India. The Indian state has failed to correctly record the number of women workers, and to ensure that they receive decent wages and all rights as workers.

Youth-backed RSP win signals Nepal's new political era

Amitabh Mattoo

is Dean and Professor at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Sangeeta Thapliyal

is Professor at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and former ICCR Professor Chair in Kathmandu University

Nepal's general election, on March 5, 2026, has produced a refreshing, if stunning, outcome. The landslide victory of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) is a watershed in Nepali politics. Traditional political parties were routed; prominent leaders of the ancien régime, including senior leaders from the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist), or CPN(UML), lost to newer political faces. For New Delhi, this is a unique opportunity to shape a new future for bilateral relations.

The elections were held in the backdrop of the Gen Z movement, in September 2025. The massive protests, by Nepal's youth, were directed against the twin issues of corruption and nepotism. They led to the formation of a temporary government led by former Nepal Chief Justice Sushila Karki as the interim Prime Minister, with a clear mandate to hold the next elections. Consequently, on the recommendation of Ms. Karki, the President dissolved the lower house of Parliament, and the general election being held. For the 275-member House of Representative, 165 members are elected under first past the post (FPTP), and 110 members under proportional representation (PR) where voters choose parties. It is to the credit of Ms. Karki that the elections were held peacefully.

A party needs 138 seats in Nepal's parliament to form a government, and it is clear that the RSP will comfortably form the new government without a coalition partner.

The rise of a party

Although relatively new to national politics – having secured 20 seats in Parliament in the 2022 general election – the RSP has clearly captured public sentiment. Its rise can largely be attributed to dissatisfaction with traditional political parties, particularly among the youth. While RSP chairman, Rabi Lamichhane was made Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of Nepal in 2022, in the coalition government led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', he was arrested in what were seen as framed charges of corruption. During the Gen Z protests, he was released from prison.

The election result signals Nepal's democratic evolution and India needs to play a supportive role

A resonance

The RSP has declared Balendra "Balen" Shah as its prime ministerial candidate, while Mr. Lamichhane will retain the Party president post. The most startling symbol of a generational political shift is Mr. Shah's rise, a former rapper who stunned the political establishment by becoming the Mayor of Kathmandu as an independent candidate in 2022. Mr. Shah, a trained structural engineer, first made his name in Nepal's hip-hop scene. His rap lyrics – sharp, irreverent and often angry – took aim at corruption, political complacency and the everyday frustrations of urban life. His songs such as "Balidan", circulated widely among young Nepalis long before he entered politics,made him an unlikely voice of dissent for a generation weary of cynical politics.

As Mayor, his proactive initiatives in Kathmandu included a cleanliness drive, beautification, waste management, and the creation of "no traffic zones". Confident of winning the election, he defeated former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli in his traditional constituency Jhapa-5 by a margin of nearly 50,000 votes.

The RSP caught the imagination of the youth; the party fielded many candidates under the age of 40, as 52% of Nepal's voters are between the age of 18 to 40 years. The RSP's party manifesto or "Bacha Patra" appealed to young Nepalis, focusing on clean governance, corruption free politics, administrative and judicial reforms. But the RSP is largely untested, gaining support from an electorate that expressed its discontent with political instability, rampant corruption and poor economic development.

Since the adoption of the new constitution in 2015, no single party has ever won a majority in Parliament. The RSP now has a major responsibility to provide a stable government with no room for inner-party fissures, like other parties. Unmet expectations can quickly turn into frustrations. The new government should focus on socio-economic development, completing ongoing projects and identifying new ones which will benefit younger Nepalis.

The path for India to take

India has congratulated Ms. Karki for successfully conducting the elections and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that "as a close friend and neighbour, India remains steadfast in its commitment to working closely with the people of Nepal" and [wished] "their new Government to scale new heights of shared peace, progress and prosperity". The real course of India's policies must be guided by three principles.

First, respect for Nepal's democratic process. Governments will rise and fall, and coalitions will form and dissolve. India's engagement should remain consistent, whatever the political configuration in Kathmandu.

Second, there should be partnership through development rather than patronage. Infrastructure connectivity, energy cooperation and educational exchange can deepen trust far more effectively than overbearing political oversight.

Third, focus on quiet diplomacy. India's influence in Nepal has historically been the strongest when exercised with sensitivity rather than visibility.

The Nepal election was not merely a domestic political event. It was part of a larger story –the evolution of a young democracy navigating its own aspirations in a complex geopolitical environment. For India, the challenge is not to shape that story but to support it with warmth and positivity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to make a switch

Indian households should be encouraged to adopt induction cooktops instead of traditional gas stoves that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Induction cooking is about 90% energy efficient, compared with roughly 40% efficiency in gas stoves due to heat loss. It is also safer and more space-efficient. Policies should promote induction cooktops and compatible cookware. A practical shift could be the use of induction stoves for daily cooking, with a single gas burner retained for power outages or specialised cooking. This could reduce dependence on imported LPG.

V. Vishnu,
Chennai

Baffling statement

Former Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, who has now been appointed the Governor of West Bengal, has stated that the "54 months he spent in Tamil Nadu would remain the golden days of his life." It is baffling how Mr. Ravi could make such a statement, as the characterisation of his tenure in the State as "golden days" stands in stark contrast to the highly tumultuous, and often confrontational, relationship he maintained with the ruling DMK government and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin.
Mr. Ravi frequently clashed with the State government, criticised the "Dravidian model" as an "expired ideology", delayed assent to several Assembly bills, and even walked out of the Assembly over disputes on the State anthem.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In a report, "SC to look into plea against law on Muslim inheritance" (Inside pages, March 11, 2026), the second paragraph should have said "... a one-fourth share", in the first instance, and "... one-eighth share" in the second instance.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28576347/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

Reforming choice-based education

'Choice' and 'flexibility' have become the new buzzwords in educational reforms and policy documents. Across the country, educators are focusing – more than ever before – on catering to the individual needs and aspirations of students. The traditional one-size-fits-all model is giving way to an approach that values the diversity of student aptitudes and interests.

The new paradigm encourages multiple pathways, allowing students to pursue combinations of courses and careers that align with their passions and potential. A science major can now minor in music, for instance – a shift symbolic of the move from teacher-centric to learner-centric education. The focus has expanded beyond disciplinary boundaries, embracing multi-disciplinary and even transdisciplinary approaches. The rationale is clear: learning confined to a single discipline risks isolating students from related fields, while cross-disciplinary study offers a larger and fuller perspective of the world.

However, when such ideals are imposed upon a rigid academic framework like ours, the choice offered is Hobson's choice – choice in name only. Teacher workload, conventional pedagogy, poor student to teacher ratios, and outdated evaluation systems conspire to reduce flexibility to a mere paper promise.

Abida Farooqui

Senate Member of the University of Calicut, and Professor and Head, P.G and Research Department of English, Govt. Arts & Science College, Kondotty

The illusion of choice

The introduction of the Choice-Based Credit and Semester System (CBCSS) in Kerala in 2009 was heralded as a landmark reform meant to offer students more freedom. In theory, credits were to reflect weekly teaching hours. In practice, the system accommodated anomalies: a four-credit course could run for five hours a week, while a two-credit course might require just four hours. Such inconsistencies were quietly ignored to maintain the illusion of freedom. Moreover, the so-called buffet of choices were hardly choices in the real sense. Beyond a set of compulsory core courses, students were offered a limited selection of 'electives', often chosen by the departments themselves. The much-advertised "open course" – a two-credit paper in the fifth semester offered to students of other departments – was the only semblance of choice. Thus, despite the rhetoric, genuine academic freedom remained a distant dream.

The same rhetoric of flexibility once again took centre stage, with the launch of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme (FYUGP) in Kerala in 2024, as mandated by the National Education Policy, 2020. The new structure allowed students to switch majors and minors, theoretically enhancing autonomy. Yet, unlike earlier curriculum changes, this reform demanded deep structural changes, making it highly challenging. The traditional idea of teachers delivering lectures in fixed classrooms gave way to students moving across departments in search of suitable courses and teachers.

It goes without saying that structural changes pose insurmountable challenges. A case in point was a clause in the university regulations of Kerala prohibiting students from choosing minors from allied disciplines. While it was intended to promote interdisciplinary learning, it inadvertently hindered specialisation.

Disciplines like Commerce and Functional English, which had previously allowed aligned minors, found this rule counterproductive – a restriction masquerading as choice.

Teacher workload, conventional pedagogy, poor student to teacher ratios, and outdated evaluation systems conspire to reduce flexibility to a mere paper promise

Need for systemic changes

For any reform to succeed, systemic changes are essential. During the author's tenure as Chairperson of the Board of Studies in English at the University of Calicut in 2017, two key innovations were introduced.

The first was a skill-oriented question paper for the course on Communication Skills. The traditional format, filled with essay questions on theories and models, failed to test actual communication ability. It was replaced with a purely activity-based paper designed to assess real skills. Yet even this change ran into bureaucratic hurdles: permission for an accompanying answer booklet was denied on "confidentiality" grounds, forcing evaluators to flip endlessly between question papers (which carried more than twice the number of questions of its earlier counterpart) and answer sheets.

The second innovation was a course titled 'Introducing Literature' – a hands-on, concept-driven paper designed to teach how to read literature rather than merely what to read. Instead of memorising texts and answering questions on the basis of prescribed texts, students were taught literary concepts and were required to interpret unseen passages from linguistic, aesthetic and political angles. Ironically, this radical step met more resistance from teachers than students, as it demanded a shift from conventional methods to concept-based teaching, teaching us the valuable lesson that teacher preparedness and training should have been ensured prior to rolling out the reforms.

Facing ground realities

Today, the FYUGP aspires to make undergraduate education more skill-based, research-oriented, and autonomous, with a modest 10% autonomy given to teachers for framing syllabi wherein each teacher can pitch in their innovative ideas. Yet, at the ground level, classrooms and methodology remain largely unchanged. One can only reap the results if adequate teacher training is provided, if class sizes are smaller, and if research were to be integrated into teaching workloads.

The crisis of the Left in Telangana

The CPI (M) needs to find a way to convert its ground-level support to votes

STATE OF PLAY

M. Rajeev
rajeev.madabhushi@thehindu.co.in

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) or the CPI (M)'s Telangana State committee appears to be at a crossroads. With less than three years for Assembly elections in the State, the party seems to be facing multiple challenges which are impacting its efforts to revive electoral fortunes of the past. With its sizeable vote bank, especially in the Nalgonda and Khammam districts, the party used to play a key role in the victory of its allies, mainly the Congress and later the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

But, the party's prospects have undergone a sea change, after the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, with the party winning just one Assembly seat, Bhadrachalam, in 2014 and drawing a blank in the elections in 2018 and 2023.

The results of the recent elections to the urban and rural local bodies have revealed the party's situation at the ground level. Its supporters have come down significantly. The party could barely win a few wards in the municipal elections as well as in the elections to the *sarpanch* posts, although the latter elections are not contested on party symbols. Such an absence of votes and the subsequent lack of representation in the Assembly has dampened the spirits of CPI (M) activists who had long been associated with the party. This has yet again exposed the CPI (M)'s weakness in converting its grassroots support to actual votes.

Crisis of leadership

Coming at this juncture was the party's central leadership's decision to censure senior leader Tammineni Veerabhadram which has caused consternation among a section of CPI (M) leaders and cadre. The central committee felt that instead of increasing the party's influence among the people, it faced questions about its survival when Mr. Veerabhadram was at the helm. Mr. Veerabhadram was reportedly also faulted for not taking steps to infuse new blood into the party.

This is not the first time the senior leader has been reproached by the central leadership. Mr. Veerabhadram had earlier been reprimanded by the CPI (M) central committee when he, then State Secretary of the party, had formed the Bahujan Left Front in the runup to the 2018 elections, allegedly projecting the candidates on caste lines. The central committee felt that the emphasis on caste identity had reduced the alliance to a caste-based front, which was a major departure from the CPI (M)'s basic position.

However, senior members were keen to emphasise that such disciplinary actions against senior leaders were not new, as similar measures have been taken against leaders such as Kerala's V.S. Achutanandan and Pinarayi Vijayan in the past. There are six stages of disciplinary actions in the party – warning, censure, public censure, removal from the party post, suspension from full party membership for a period not exceeding one year, and expulsion. CPI (M) Polit Bureau member B.V. Raghavulu said that Mr. Veerabhadram's issue was the party's internal affair, and that it would not have any impact on its plans in the future. The party was now focussed on drawing up a policy agenda, the implementation of which will be of paramount importance for political parties to safeguard the rights of the working classes and help in alleviating the sufferings of the poor, he said.

Similarly, political analyst Telakapalli Ravi also stated that "this is not the severest action. Mr. Veerabhadram will continue as a special invitee to the State Secretariat meetings. That's why senior leaders did not make any public statement on the development".

The need for new blood

There is a definite lack of interest among the youth to join Left-aligned parties. "You have to take steps to attract youth and ensure that the past mistakes are rectified," Mr. Ravi said.

The party has made changes in its top leadership in Telangana ever since bringing in John Wesley as State Secretary, and by encouraging leaders such as Mallu Lakshmi, daughter-in-law of Telangana Armed Struggle veteran Mallu Swarajyam as part of efforts to infuse new blood into the party ranks. "You will see the aggression returning to the party soon," CPI (M) general secretary M.A. Baby recently said.

Hopefully, the CPI (M) will take to its agitational path again on issues of public importance. However, the party has to evolve and find ways to convert its mass support base into votes, a dream that currently remains distant.

How the war in West Asia exposes India's LPG dependence

The ongoing conflict in the region has disrupted supplies in the country, forcing price hikes and emergency measures

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani
Areena Arora

The war between the U.S.-Israel and Iran has put stress on India's Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply, which was already heavily import dependent and in need of government aid. Just last year, the Centre paid India's three public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) – Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) – ₹30,000 crore to subsidise their losses for selling cooking gas for cheap at a time of soaring prices globally.

However, now with war breaking out, India faces the possibility of disruptions to its LPG supplies and higher global prices. On March 7, domestic LPG prices increased by ₹60 per cylinder. Brent crude briefly rose to nearly $120 a barrel, crossing $100 per barrel for the first time since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

On March 9, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued an order directing all domestic oil refining companies, including petrochemical complexes, to maximise the production of LPG and make the entire output available exclusively to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL. Refiners have been barred from diverting any output for other petrochemical production. The OMCs have been directed to supply LPG solely to domestic consumers.

This comes just a month after the Union Budget cut LPG subsidy allocation by 27%, from ₹15,121 crore to ₹11,085 crore. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas received ₹30,443 crore for 2026-27.

India produces only about 40% of its LPG requirement. The rest is imported, overwhelmingly from the same region now at war.

Increase in LPG use

India's LPG use has been on the rise as more people switch to cleaner cooking fuel **(Chart 1)**. Between 2015 and July 2025, the number of active domestic LPG consumers rose from 1,486 lakh to 3,305 lakh, an increase of over 120% in a decade, according to data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The government has claimed that LPG coverage has increased to nearly 100% of households, up from 62% in 2016 when the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched.

The International Energy Agency, in its Indian Oil Market Outlook to 2030, noted that clean cooking programmes had led to LPG imports surging nearly three-fold in the past decade. The quantity of India's LPG imports increased from over 16.48 million metric tonnes (MMT) in 2020-21 to over 18 MMT in 2025-26. **(Chart 2)**

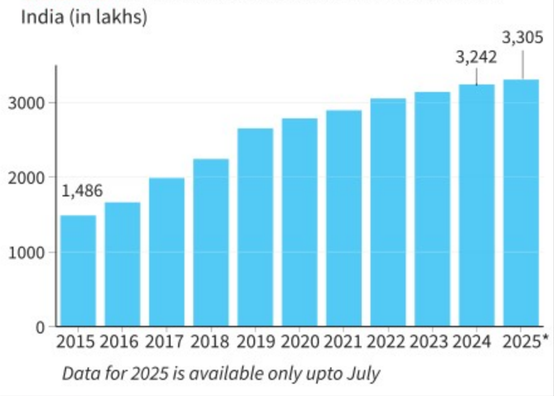
India's LPG imports are heavily concentrated in a few countries, most of them in West Asia **(Chart 3)**. In 2025, Qatar accounted for about 34% of India's LPG imports, making it the country's largest supplier, followed by the UAE (26%), and Kuwait (8.3%). This dependence on West Asia has been long-standing. In 2020, nearly 37% of all Indian LPG imports came from Qatar. Moreover, the Strait of Hormuz, located between Iran and Oman, is one of the world's critical energy shipping routes. A large share of global oil and gas shipments pass through this narrow waterway. With the Strait of Hormuz closed since March 1, LPG imports have been hit.

India's Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) imports have also been increasing in 2024-25, reaching 27 MMT, the highest on record and double the 13.5 MMT imported in 2011-12 **(Chart 4)**. Half of India's LNG also comes from Qatar. LNG powers fertilizer plants, electricity generation, and gas pipelines that fuel vehicles and commercial kitchens. Like LPG, it is largely sourced from the same West Asian suppliers caught in the conflict.

Supply strain

The data for the charts were sourced from Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas), and UN Comtrade

CHART 1: Number of active domestic LPG consumers in India (in lakhs)



Data for 2025 is available only upto July

CHART 4: The total import of liquified natural gas (in million metric tonnes)

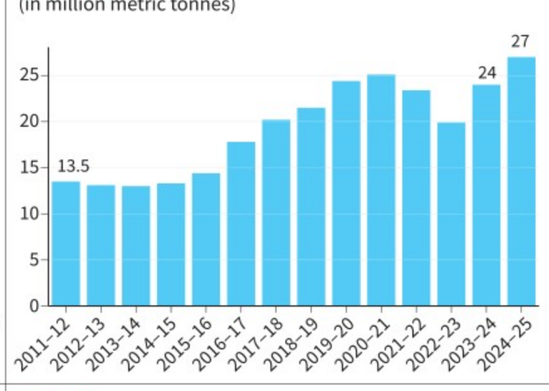


CHART 2: The total import of liquified petroleum gas (in million metric tonnes)

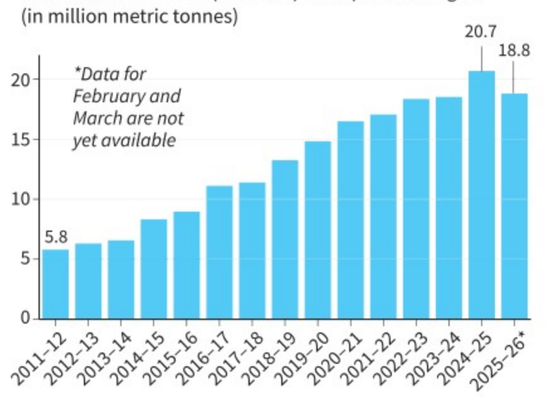


CHART 5: The domestic consumption of liquefied petroleum gas (in million metric tonnes)

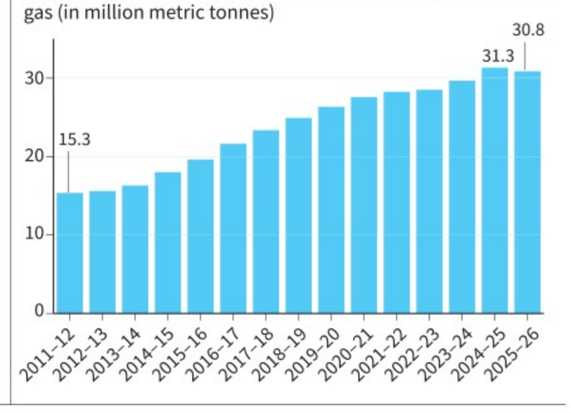
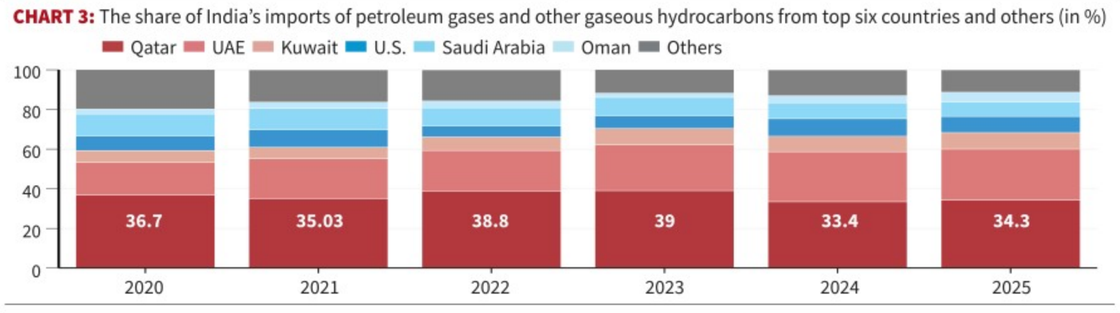


CHART 3: The share of India's imports of petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons from top six countries and others (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 12, 1976

Technical aids to prevent train accidents

Madras, March 11: Lapses on the part of railway staff were the main cause for collisions and derailments on the Indian Railways during 1974-75. Out of 762 cases, nearly two-thirds (504) were due to this. Next in order came failures of mechanical equipment which accounted for 132 cases. Sixty cases were accidental. As many as 16 derailments took place due to defective track, seven due to sabotage and 26 as a result of failures not involving railway staff. In 17 cases, causes of derailment could not be established.

A review of Accidents on Indian Railways by the Railway Ministry had estimated the losses to railway rolling stock, engines, and permanent way at Rs. 10.49 crores during 1974-75. Safe running of trains depended on the vigilance and efficient performance of duties by railwaymen. The traffic density in certain parts of the Indian Railway system was among the highest in the world. Adequate training to railway staff, enforcement of correct methods of working, effective supervision and motivation, and increasing use of technology formed the basis of accident prevention policy on the Railways.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 12, 1926

British war graves commission

London, March 10: The progress of caring for and the beautifying of war-cemeteries florally and architecturally in Europe, Asia and Africa is depicted in photographic supplement to annual report of the War Graves Commission, whose labours are illustrated by statistics as follows:– Cared 2,380 cemeteries comprising 5,42,498 graves, conducted seven nurseries, supplied nearly 7,000,000 plants, tress and shrubs, purchased 360,000 bulbs, planted 49 miles of hedges and fortyone acres of grass and chemically treated 97,000 headstones.

The report discloses that isolated British remains continue to be found, the number for last year being 4,100, which were mostly discovered by organised gangs digging the ground in search of shells and war material.

The Prince of Wales has sent message to the Commissioners expressing his gratification at Governments of Britain, Canada and Australia, agreeing to endow the commission.

From Page One

West Asia conflict: global energy concerns mount

Iran has effectively stopped cargo traffic in the narrow strait through which about a fifth of all oil is shipped. It has also targeted oil fields and refineries in Gulf Arab nations, aiming at generating enough global economic pain to pressure the U.S. and Israel to end their strikes.

Witnesses reported continuous airstrikes hitting Tehran after Israel said it had renewed its attacks. Explosions were also heard in Beirut and in southern Lebanon after Israel said it was hitting targets connected to Iran-backed Hezbollah militants. The attacks in Lebanon set a building ablaze in central Beirut's densely populated Aicha Bakkar area, engulfing the top two floors. Lebanon's Health Ministry said four people were wounded.

Saudi Arabia said it destroyed six ballistic missiles launched toward Prince Sultan Air Base and intercepted two drones over the eastern city of Hafar al-Batin. The U.S. military said Tuesday it had destroyed 16 Iranian minelayers near the Strait of Hormuz, though U.S. President Donald Trump said in social media posts there were no reports yet of Iran mining the passage. If the strait is mined, it could take at least weeks to clean it up once the conflict is over.

(With inputs from Kallol Bhattacherjee)

Motion to oust Om Birla as LS Speaker rejected

In a fiery attack on the Opposition for bringing in the motion, Mr. Shah said that Mr. Birla had occupied the "high moral ground" by allowing the motion against him to be admitted despite several errors in the document. "The tradition has been that when a no-confidence motion is discussed against the Speaker, the Speaker does not occupy the Chair. In all three previous instances of a motion of removal [in 1954, 1966, and 1987], the House was presided over for 14 days by other officers. Om Birla is the only Speaker who has demonstrated moral courage," he said.

He also listed data showing how the productivity of the Lok Sabha had increased under Mr. Birla's stewardship, while Zero Hours had gone on for five hours on certain days, and all 78 women MPs of the last Lok Sabha had got an opportunity to speak.

In terms of seats, Mr. Birla gave the Congress six times more speaking time on a pro rata basis than the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr. Shah said.

The part of his speech that elicited protests from the Opposition benches was when he spoke about the conduct of the LoP Rahul Gandhi, who he said complained about not being allowed to speak but was absent from the House on major occasions.

"In the 17th Lok Sabha, [Rahul Gandhi's] attendance was 51%; the national average was 66%. In the 16th Lok Sabha, his attendance was 52%; the national average was 80%. In the 15th Lok Sabha, his attendance was 43%; the national average was 76%," he said, adding that Mr. Gandhi chose to be out of town during crucial sessions when major legislations were being discussed.

At this, Congress MP K.C. Venugopal interjected, asking whether the motion was against the Speaker or the Leader of the Opposition. Mr. Shah then went on to speak about Mr. Gandhi's behaviour in the Lok Sabha, citing instances where he went up to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chair in 2018, and hugged him, or when he was seen to give a flying kiss, or even a wink. At this, the Opposition erupted in protests, and the rest of Mr. Shah's speech was delivered amidst slogans demanding that he apologise.

The Speaker has stayed away from presiding over the Lok Sabha since the Motion of Removal against him was admitted in the first part of the Budget Session. He is likely to reoccupy his chair from Thursday.

SC grants 'right to die' to man in vegetative state

Justice Viswanathan joined his lead colleague on the Bench in a separate and concurrent opinion that the family had left no stone unturned to care for their son and brother. "It is only when the matter reached a point of no return, that to relieve Harish from what he is undergoing, they have resorted to this legal course of action. One can only imagine the agony they would have undergone during this period," Justice Viswanathan said.

The court directed AIIMS Delhi to shift Mr. Rana from his residence to their palliative care centre. The process of withdrawal of CANH must be part of a well-structured, tailored, robust and articulated palliative care plan for a PVS patient in his or her most vulnerable phase of life.

"The right to die with dignity is inseparable from the right to receive quality palliative and End-of-Life (EOL) care. It is imperative to ensure that the withdrawal process is not marred by pain, agony, or suffering," the Supreme Court held.

The court directed Chief Medical Officers in all districts to form panels of registered medical practitioners to constitute secondary medical boards to examine applications for the withdrawal of life support.

The area Judicial Magistrates of First Class must be intimated by hospitals if a primary and second medical boards unanimously recommend withdrawal of life support in cases. The court urged the Centre to initiate a specific legislation detailing the procedure for life support withdrawal.

NCERT book row: Supreme Court unhappy with 'rewritten' chapter

The chapter must not be published without the approval of a committee of domain experts, top court says; it directs the government to constitute the panel with a former senior judge, an eminent academic and a renowned legal practitioner

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The SC had banned the Social Science textbook despite the Centre withdrawing over 82,000 copies of it from circulation. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court on Wednesday took strong exception to a "laconic" statement made in an affidavit filed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Director Dinesh Prasad Saklani that a banned Class 8 social science chapter containing a controversial section on "corruption in judiciary" has been "duly rewritten".

"Who has rewritten it," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, asked Mr. Saklani, and Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy under the Union Education Ministry.

On February 26, the Supreme Court ordered the "blanket and complete" ban on the social science textbook despite the Union government, represented by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, withdrawing over 82,000 copies of the book from circulation. The court had seen it as a calculated move to create bias against the judiciary in the "impressionable minds" of children.

On Wednesday, to the court's query about who rewrote the chapter in question, Mr. Saklani responded orally: "We have experts among faculty members."

"If our grammar is not wrong, your affidavit says the chapter 'has been duly rewritten'. It means you have already done it... Who are your so-called experts? What and how was the manner in which the chapter was rewritten? After the concern expressed by us, is this the manner in which the deponent, the NCERT Director, comes up with such a laconic statement," Justice Joymalya Bagchi, on the Bench, asked Mr. Saklani.

The observations from the Bench came a day after the NCERT issued an unqualified and unconditional apology.

The Chief Justice, reading out from the affidavit, pointed out that the NCERT intended to incorporate the "revised" chapter in the academic session 2026-27, and use it for classroom transactions across all the States and Union Territories in accordance with the "applicable curriculum and academic framework".

"We have already suffered from your 'applicable curriculum and academic framework'," the Chief Justice said drily.

The court directed that the chapter, if revised, would not be published unless it was approved by a committee of domain experts.

It ordered the government to constitute the expert committee, which may preferably include a former senior judge, an eminent academic and a renowned practitioner in law. The court said the committee may associate with the National Judicial Academy to look into the curriculum on legal studies for not only Class 8 but other classes too.

'Not averse to criticism'

The court clarified the judiciary was not averse to objective and legitimate criticism about its institutional functioning.

It came down heavily on "mischief mongers" on social media who had reacted irresponsibly in the wake of the NCERT textbook controversy, and particularly after the ban order. The court directed the Centre to provide details of the websites and the persons running them for "suitable action".

The court gleaned from the NCERT Director's affidavit that the chapter in question was drafted by a Textbook Development Team (TDT) of Michel Danino, educationist Suparna Divakar, and legal researcher Alok Prasanna Kumar.

The court order observed that the TDT either did not possess "reasonable, informed knowledge about the Indian judiciary and/or deliberately misrepresented the facts in order to project a negative image of Indian judiciary before Class 8 students who are of an impressionable age".

The court said it was high time the government revisited the constitution of the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC).

Lioness kills five-year-old boy in Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

A five-year-old boy was killed in an attack by a lioness in Amreli district of Gujarat, a forest official said on Wednesday. The child was attacked at Manavav village in Dhari taluka on Tuesday evening. He was the son of a farm labourer from Madhya Pradesh.

Forest Department officials said villagers raised an alarm on seeing the attack, prompting the lioness to abandon the injured child and flee.

The severely injured boy was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Forest officials deployed three teams to track down the animal. The lioness was later captured in a cage late on Tuesday night, an official said.

Gujarat is the only natural habitat of the Asiatic lion.

According to the 2025 lion census conducted in May, the big cats have expanded their presence beyond the Gir National Park into 11 districts in Saurashtra, including Amreli, with several sightings reported in non-forested and coastal areas.

Protesters seek NRC before Census to weed out 'infiltrators' in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Dramatic turn: When protesters tried to breach barricades, security personnel fired a few rounds of tear gas shells, said an officer. ANI

At least three women sustained minor injuries in Manipur's capital, Imphal, on Wednesday when security personnel fired tear gas shells to disperse protesters who took to the streets, demanding a mechanism to insulate the State from "illegal immigrants" before the Census is conducted.

The first phase of India's 16th Census, comprising house-listing and house count, is scheduled from April 1 to September 30, this year. The second phase, involving population enumeration, is scheduled for February 2027.

Scores of people, mostly women, gathered near Imphal's Khwairamband Market on Wednesday morning to demand that the State government conduct an Assam-like exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) before counting heads. They insisted that the NRC or a similar mechanism was necessary to weed out "infiltrators", primarily from Myanmar.

The NRC in Assam has not progressed beyond the publication of the complete draft of citizens in August 2019. Approximately 19.06 lakh out of 3.3 crore applicants were left out of the draft list.

"Protesters tried to breach barricades and march outside the market area. A scuffle ensued, and security personnel fired a few rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the crowd," an Imphal West district police officer said.

Three women reportedly sustained injuries. "The situation is under control now," the officer said.

The protesters said the government should first identify the outsiders and conduct the NRC to save Manipur and its original inhabitants from "waves" of "illegal immigrants".

The Meiteis, who form the majority in Imphal Valley, often allege that a large section of Kukis have infiltrated from Myanmar.

To facilitate the Census exercise, the Manipur government froze the administrative boundaries of all districts, tehsils, and villages from January 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.

While the focus was on controlling the women-led crowd, members of an organisation called the Campaign for Just and Fair Delimitation locked the office of the State Academy of Training elsewhere in Imphal, alleging that Census-related training was being conducted there.

Members of the group insisted that the return of people displaced by the ethnic conflict between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities to their original homes must precede the Census exercise. The conflict, which began in May 2023, left more than 260 people dead and displaced some 62,000 others.

'Non-Sanatanis may not enter Badrinath, Kedarnath temples'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Badri-Kedar Temple Committee (BKTC) passed a proposal on Monday to restrict the entry of "non-Sanatanis" at the Badrinath and Kedarnath temples in Uttarakhand.

The two shrines, part of the Char Dham pilgrimage circuit and located at an altitude of over 3,000 metres, are among the most visited pilgrimage sites in the State, whose economy is significantly dependent on religious tourism. A similar decision to bar "non-Hindus" from visiting the Gangotri and Yamunotri temples – also part of the Char Dham circuit – had been taken by priests at the two shrines in January this year.

BKTC chairman Hemant Dwivedi said the decision was taken at a meeting of the temple Board on March 10. "The committee has decided to restrict the entry of non-Sanatanis into the Badrinath and Kedarnath temples," he said.

Vermillion and Chalisa

Explaining the term "Sanatani", Mr. Dwivedi said, "Anyone who has faith in Sanatan Dharma is a Sanatani. Anyone who applies vermillion on the forehead and can recite the Chalisa is a Sanatani."

He also said the committee had approved a budget of ₹121.07 crore for the 2026-27 pilgrimage year.

According to budget provisions, ₹57.47 crore has been allocated for the Badrinath temple and ₹63.60 crore for the Kedarnath temple. The proposed expenditure stands at ₹99.45 crore against the estimated income, he said.

The budget has been prepared for the upcoming pilgrimage season.

108 Maoists with a bounty of ₹3.29 cr. surrender in Bastar

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

Inputs from the surrendered cadres led to recovery of ₹3.61 crore in cash and 1 kg of gold from Indravati region. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As many as 108 Maoists carrying a combined reward of ₹3.29 crore surrendered in Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur on Wednesday, the police said. The cadres, belonging to the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of Maoists, are from different districts of the Bastar region.

The surrenders happened just 20 days before the March 31 deadline set by the Centre for eliminating Maoism in the country.

They handed over 100-plus weapons, including AK 47 rifles, to the police and also provided inputs that led to the recovery of ₹3.61 crore in cash and one kg of gold valued at about ₹1.64 crore from a Maoist dump in the Indravati area, said Bastar Inspector General of Police P. Sundarraj.

He added that this was the highest recovery of cash and valuables from a single location in the history of anti-Naxal operations in the country.

A police statement said that 37 of the cadres were from Bijapur, 30 were from Dantewada, 18 from Sukma, 16 from Bastar, four from Narayanpur and three from Kanker.

"Meaningful efforts are being made in accordance with the policies of the Government of India and the Government of Chhattisgarh to rehabilitate the Maoist cadres who have returned to the mainstream, by providing them opportunities for security and a respectable life and to integrate them into the society," said Mr. Sundarraj.

Meanwhile in Kandhamal district of Odisha, 10 cadres laid down arms before the security forces on Wednesday. The Maoists, all from Chhattisgarh, had a combined reward of ₹1.15 crore on their heads.

Civilians held captive, fresh tension grips Manipur's Ukhrul

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Chief Minister tells families that all steps would be made to secure release of those taken hostage

Fresh tension gripped Manipur's Ukhrul district after an alleged Kuki group held 18 Nagas, including women and children, captive on Wednesday.

The people reportedly held hostage were travelling in three vehicles – two private cars and a commercial carrier – on National Highway 202, also called the Ukhrul-Imphal Road. Their vehicles were stopped at Thawai Kuki village in the Shangkai area.

The village is within the jurisdiction of the Litan police station. The Litan area witnessed violence and arson in February after a group of Kuki men assaulted a Naga man in an alleged drunken brawl.

The incident followed an anti-poppy cultivation drive carried out by some Naga men earlier in the day. They reportedly took custody of a Kuki poppy cultivator, triggering the reaction.

Family members of the passengers held hostage, some of whom were travelling for a wedding, raised the alarm when they did not reach their destinations. The captors had also reportedly snatched the passengers' mobile phones, heightening the anxiety of their family members.

Expressing "profound concern" over the situation along the Ukhrul-Imphal Road, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh directed senior police and administrative officials to secure the release of the civilians and keep the situation in the district under control.

He also appealed to all civil society organisations and stakeholders to help maintain calm, urging those responsible for the latest incident to "uphold the highest traditions of humanity and ensure the safe and unconditional release of all the civilians at the earliest".

The Chief Minister assured the families of the victims and the people of the State that the government was treating the matter seriously and would take all necessary steps to book the culprits involved.

The Tangkhul Naga Long, the apex Naga organisation in the district, brought the incident to the Chief Minister's notice.

No need to panic: Modi on energy supply crisis

S. Ganesan
TIRUCHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that the nation would successfully navigate the emerging situation arising from the conflict in West Asia just as it did during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The West Asia conflict has affected the energy supply chain of the whole world. We believe in the ideology of India-first. You have seen how our government protects the interests of Indians above everything in any situation. Our efforts will be the same this time too," he said at a public meeting here.

"There is no need to panic or pay attention to rumours. Let us spread only correct and verified information," he said. He added that 140 crore Indians had showed the world how mature the nation was during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Similarly, I am confident that as a nation we will navigate every situation successfully," he said.

Sales of electric cooktops sizzle as LPG flameout worries families

The Hindu Bureau

Amid the LPG shortage across the country owing to the war in West Asia, e-commerce platforms and retailers in major cities have seen a surge in demand for induction cooktops as people look for replacements due to the gas supply disruption.

While prices for electric cooktops have gone up, supplies largely remained available on e-commerce platforms and retail stores though the inventory is going down at a fast clip.

Weighing in on the increase in demand, Rajendra Gandhi, Managing Director of Stovekraft, a home appliance company which owns cookware brand Pigeon, said the firm is seeing a four-fold spike in the average weekly sales of induction cooktops in e-commerce channels since the beginning of the ongoing tensions.

"We currently manufacture around two lakh units of induction cooktops at our manufacturing facility in Harohalli, Karnataka and plan to ramp this up in the coming financial year," he said.

In Mumbai, data showed that the induction cooktop rates from various brands like Pigeon and Prestige have risen between 10% to 30% since 2024 at retail stores.

Depleting stocks

Several home appliance stores in Chennai said they have run out of stock of cooktops. Showrooms in the city's Anna Salai, Adyar, Choolaimedu and T. Nagar areas were ready to take orders for home delivery only the following day. Some of the shops, which continued to hold stock, said they reported a sharp spike in sales over the last two days.

Amudha Sundar, a Chennai resident, attempted to buy an induction cooktop on Tuesday, but her efforts proved futile. She drove down on Wednesday to a store located far from her residence and purchased one. Many city residents said they are hurrying to buy cooktops as a back-up plan in case they run out of gas cylinders at home.

A. Rayappa, who runs an appliance store, said over 100 induction cooktops were sold in the last two days.

J. Sathish, Managing Partner in J. Engineering Agencies, which sells kitchen appliances in Coimbatore, said demand for single and double burner induction stoves have doubled. "The demand has spiked for online and offline sales. We used to sell five to six units a day and now sell 12-13 units," he said.

A man displays an induction cooktop at a retail store in Mumbai on Wednesday amid rising demand due to LPG supply shortage. PTI

According to Sathish Nair, chairman of EssEmm Corporation, that makes kitchen appliances, institutional customers are buying whatever product is available. "A large part of our stock is for customised projects. Of the remaining, 30% to 40% is exhausted. Our working capital requirement has spiralled as we need to step up production," he said.

A section of major traders in Kochi said they have started observing a rise in demand for electric cookware, mostly induction stoves.

Around 150 induction stoves of different brands were sold through the outlets of the Lulu Group International in Kochi, according to a spokesperson of the group.

V.A. Afzal, managing director of Bismi Home Appliances, meanwhile, said there was no rise in the enquiries for electric cookware as domestic LPG supply was not affected yet.

The prices of induction stoves in Kolkata have shot up by at least ₹400 to ₹500 in the past few days. Several distributors and retailers dealing with these cooktops said that they have witnessed a three-fold increase in the demand for the appliance.

A prominent retail chain selling induction stoves in Kolkata said that from selling 40 to 50 induction stoves in a day, the daily sales have picked up to about 130 to 150 daily since the start of the week.

Locally made stove oven shops and outlets selling earthen mud ovens have also cropped up across the city. People are also flocking to buy coal and kerosene to keep the small eateries and household kitchens running.

Mohammad Shabir, who has a shop in Chandni Chowk locality in Patna, said induction stoves and electric cookers are selling at high demand as people are purchasing the appliances without bargaining for the price.

"Due to the shortage of LPG cylinders, people are now buying electric cooking stoves. Today, I sold 25 induction stoves which is the highest ever for my shop. Now, I am also running out of stock and have asked my supplier to deliver it as soon as possible to meet the demands," Mr. Shabir said.

Bipin Pandey, who works at an appliance in Lucknow, is jubilant as his business has shot up. He attributes the good fortunes to the rise in demand of induction stoves. "In the last five days, I sold 25 units of induction stoves, leading to good profit," said Mr. Pandey.

"We have been told that due to the conflict there is likely to be a disruption in gas cylinder supply. So, people are coming in to purchase electric stoves as a back-up option," added Mr. Pandey.

Tight situation

On the flip side, there is a shortage of these kitchen appliances in Guwahati, the economic hub of the Northeast, as the appliances available with manufacturers and dealers are being sold at an unprecedented rate in the metropolises and other "mainland" cities.

"We are selling about 15-16 pieces of induction stoves and microwaves compared to 9-10 a week ago. But the main issue is that we are running out of stock, and the companies are unable to dispatch their products because the demand in and around production centres is too high," Aloy Bharali of Bharali Brothers, one of the oldest dealers of appliances and electronic goods, said.

Sanjay Gupta, the owner of Isha Metals, a major cookware shop in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, said that sales and product enquiries for induction cooktops have gone up in the past few days.

"From a daily average of five to six units sold, we are selling about 15 for the past four five days," said Mr. Gupta.

Experts had warned during a conference in 2024 that a lack of comprehensive policy support to electric cooktops would expose Indians to international oil fluctuations.

LPG growth "exposes Indian consumers (who are already facing affordability barrier) to international fluctuations in oil prices", the researchers said in a presentation at the 2024 Modern Energy Cooking Forum in New Delhi.

In Rajya Sabha, MPs blame PM's foreign policy for fuel crisis

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On the second day of the debate in the Rajya Sabha on the working of the Rural Development Ministry on Wednesday, Opposition parties took up issues such as cooking gas and fuel shortage across India, particularly in rural areas.

The MPs alleged that the foreign policy of the Narendra Modi government led to such a situation and sought immediate intervention to address the crisis. CPI(M) MP V. Sivadasan said the Centre reduced the subsidy to solar and wind energy and forced people to use LPG connections through the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana scheme. "Now, after the American aggression on Iran, LPG price is skyrocketing," he said.

He added that though Mr. Modi is a friend of U.S. President Donald Trump, people of India have no use of it. "Thousands of hotels in rural India have been shut down. Women are crying," he said.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh said 21 crore LPG connections are in rural areas. "I want to ask you... why are you pandering to Israel as a result of which India has to suffer from gas shortage?" he asked.

'Separate discussion'

DMK leader Tiruchi Siva asked for a separate discussion on the impact of the war on Iran. He said the situation created a huge impact with regards to fuel supply. "Every State is convening urgent meetings on how to address the issues. Restaurants are being closed due to shortage of gas. The prices are going up and home-makers are suffering. Is it not very important that Parliament discusses that? We feel very sad," Mr. Siva said.

"We don't know what is going to happen...how the economic recession that emerges in some other nation impacts the rest of the world," he said, adding that the crisis would impact rural lives the hardest.

Speaker forced to act according to govt. wishes, says Opposition

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal says the Speaker had repeatedly barred Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi from speaking in the House; Parliamentary Affairs Minister says he has never witnessed such misbehaviour from MPs in front of a Speaker

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition and Treasury benches took each other head-on in the Lok Sabha during a discussion on the motion for removal of Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday. While the ruling side asserted that the motion had been moved to satisfy the "the ego of one person", Opposition MPs maintained that they had nothing personal against the Speaker and he was being forced to act according to the wishes of the government.

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal said that the Speaker had repeatedly barred Rahul Gandhi from speaking in the House whenever he stood up, though, according to convention, the Leader of the Opposition is always allowed to speak.

"We know it [the motion] is an extreme measure, but we have been forced to do this," Mr. Venugopal said.

Congress member K.C. Venugopal speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session in Parliament on Wednesday. ANI

He added that the no-confidence motion was introduced to protect the fundamental rights of MPs, though the Opposition knew the numbers were not in their favour.

"Personally, Om Birla may be okay. But his hands are tied," he alleged.

The Congress MP from Kerala's Alappuzha constituency said that the government was worried about the Leader of the Opposition because he had the courage to speak out.

Countering the ruling party's remarks that Mr. Gandhi spoke against the nation whenever he travelled abroad, Mr. Venugopal cited nine instances where he claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made adverse comments about the Government of India and its people on foreign soil.

"Where did the Speaker get the information that women MPs will attack the PM? If he had that information, then why did he not go with it to the police? This was the most irresponsible statement by the Speaker," he said.

Rijiju reacts

These remarks drew a sharp reaction from Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju who asked Mr. Venugopal to be cautious in making allegations against the Speaker since he was not present to defend or chair the proceedings.

Mr. Rijiju said 25-30 MPs went to the Speaker's chamber. "I have never witnessed such misbehaviour from MPs in front of a Speaker throughout my long career in Parliament."

The Minister also said that if footage of the CCTV camera was released, the whole world would be ashamed of the behaviour of Opposition MPs.

BJP MP and former Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the resolution to remove the Speaker should not be weaponised to "satisfy the ego" of a leader.

Mr. Prasad alleged that the LoP travelled to various countries where he mocked Parliament, the Constitution and the Election Commission. The Congress had won several elections in the past but was now targeting these very institutions, he said.

Trinamool Congress member Sayani Ghosh said the voice of the Opposition members had been "curbed" and MPs had been forced to fight for their rights in the House.

She alleged that Parliament, a policy-making platform, had been converted into an advertising platform.

Most common word used by Speaker is 'no': Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Opposition members in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday claimed that whenever they attempted to raise issues, the most common refrain of Speaker Om Birla was "No, no, no".

Participating in the debate on the resolution seeking Mr. Birla's removal, several members alleged that the Opposition was not receiving the protection expected from the Chair and that interruptions from the Treasury Bench members had become routine.

RJD MP Abhay Kumar Sinha said the Speaker's office had strayed from the neutrality envisioned by the framers of the Constitution. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha member Vijay Kumar Hansdak said it was the Speaker's second term and the most spoken word in the House after [Jawaharlal] Nehru was "No".

AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi accused the executive of trying to "overpower" the legislative wings.

Provide security for LPG supply chain: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Wednesday asked States to ensure protection of LPG supply chain by ramping up security for the infrastructure concerned and personnel.

The Chief Secretaries and Directors-General of Police of all States were told to counter "false rumours regarding LPG shortages" and were advised to closely monitor social media platforms and take prompt action to remove fake news, a government source said.

The States were advised to monitor local LPG supplies on a daily basis, take strict action against violators, and maintain law and order.

Govt. masking incompetence, Modi must respond in House on impact of conflict: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre failed to take adequate steps to secure India's energy supply, says Congress chief

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi respond in Parliament to the emerging economic impact of the conflict in West Asia, and accused the Centre of masking its "utter incompetence" through "fake source-based assurances" on India's energy preparedness.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge alleged that the Centre had prior knowledge of the likelihood of a war in West Asia but failed to take adequate steps to secure the country's energy supply. The consequences, he said, were now being borne by ordinary citizens as the crisis was beginning to affect several sectors. "Modi Govt.'s fake 'source based' assurances expose its utter incompetence," he said.

Farmers were likely to be among the first to be affected, as fuel shortages could disrupt fertilizer supply, the Congress leader said. Rationing of LPG cylinders had begun in some places, with long queues reported for refills, and waiting periods of up to 25 days for domestic cylinders, he added.

Warning of wider economic repercussions, he said medicine prices could surge as raw material costs would rise by nearly 30%.

"From ceramics and glass to FMCG and auto mobiles, every sector is feeling the heat. Every product is likely to become costlier," Mr. Kharge said. "Now we are told India has 74 days of oil and energy stocks. Situation remains grim. The country deserves the truth," he said.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said prices had risen steadily over the past decade.

"Now look at the LPG situation – how much more will people bear because of their (the Centre's) policies and decisions," Ms. Vadra asked.

LS represents whole country, not just one party: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha does not represent just one party, but rather the whole country, the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday. He said that he had been stopped from speaking in the Lower House on multiple occasions.

Mr. Gandhi was responding to BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad during the debate on the motion to remove the Speaker. Mr. Prasad had cited procedures to say that the LoP should measure his words. In response, Mr. Gandhi said that "vile things" were being said about him during the debate.

"Every time we get up to speak, we are stopped," the Congress leader added.

Bill to codify IPS deputation in Central Armed Police Forces may be tabled in this session

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Central Armed Forces (General Administration) Bill is likely to be introduced in the Budget Session, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

The Bill intends to codify the functioning of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and is in response to a May 23, 2025 Supreme Court ruling which asked the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to "progressively reduce" the deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers up to the rank of Inspector-General in the CAPFs in the next two years.

The Bill received the Union Cabinet's nod on Tuesday. *The Hindu* reported first on February 14 that the MHA was considering "statutory intervention" in response to the Supreme Court order which granted Organised Group A Services (OGAS) status to the CAPF officers. The court asked for a time-bound review of cadre and framing of service rules in six months.

The Bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet on Tuesday. ANI

The MHA had filed a review petition challenging the judgment, but the Supreme Court dismissed it on October 28, 2025, making the ruling final.

Application in SC

On March 9, the MHA filed an application in SC seeking modification or extension in timeline by one more year. The MHA said that "the cadre review, which is a comprehensive and multi-layered process, requires examination at various levels of the government... and approval of the Cabinet."

It added that only after cadre strength is reviewed can the service rules be amended.

INBRIEF

Telegram told to bar 3,100 channels over copyright issue

In a major crackdown, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Wednesday directed the Telegram messaging application to remove over 3,100 of its channels through which copyright-protected content belonging to OTT platforms and producers was allegedly being circulated. Telegram did not give an immediate response to the directions when approached by *The Hindu* for comment. Telegram has been asked to take down the channels that violated the Copyright Act, within three hours of receiving the intimation, a source in the government said. The content in the channels included popular web series, movies, reality shows, and podcasts.

Regulator bars misleading ads on anti-obesity drugs

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has issued an advisory to pharmaceutical manufacturers and importers to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945, in the promotion and marketing of prescription medicines, particularly GLP-1 receptor agonists and similar drugs indicated for obesity and metabolic disorders. Such drugs must be prescribed only by Registered Medical Practitioners, the regulator said. It has reiterated that any direct or indirect advertisement of prescription medicines is strictly prohibited.

New EPS rules leave out clause on higher pension

EPFO Board describes as obsolete the clause that provided up to one year to employers and staff to exercise the higher pension option by making contributions above the wage cap of ₹15,000

T. Ramakrishnan
CHENNAI

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya chairs a meeting of the Central Board of Trustees, EPFO, in New Delhi. ANI/@MANSUKHMANDVIYA X

The Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 2026, as approved recently by the Central Board of Trustees in the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), has left out the contentious clause in the EPS-1995 that had provided a limited benefit to employees to exercise the option of pension on higher salary.

The new scheme had to be drafted in view of the Code on Social Security coming into force in November last year.

The clause in question – paragraph 11 (4) – was omitted because it was regarded as "obsolete", stated an official document on the agenda for the Board's meeting on March 2.

It was included at the time of amendments made to the EPS in August 2014, replacing a proviso that had envisaged limitless option for employers and employees to seek pension on higher salary for the employees. The sub-para had provided a maximum of one year to the employers and employees to exercise the option to contribute from salary exceeding ₹15,000 per month, which was the pensionable salary cap.

SC order

As several pensioners and contributing members of the EPS had complained that they could not exercise the option during 2014-15 due to the interpretation on cut-off date by the authorities, the Supreme Court, in its verdict in November 2022, permitted them to apply for higher PF pension.

Last December, the government informed the Lok Sabha that of the around 15.24 lakh applications of the employees and pensioners forwarded by employers to the PF body till January 31, 2025 (which was the last date for submission of applications), almost all the applications had been disposed of. Against the net total of 3.93 lakh demand letters issued, nearly 2.33 lakh applicants had deposited the amount sought or gave consent. Approximately 1.24 lakh applicants had been issued pension payment orders.

Originally, the EPFO was against the demand for pension on higher wages as it took the stand that the EPS-1995 was meant for economically weaker workers, who had proportionately contributed more than the high wage earners.

The "reverse subsidy" was an "anomaly", which was corrected by the modifications in 2014, the PF body had held, adding that there was a net actuarial deficit in the Employees' Pension Fund.

Notwithstanding the absence of any provision in the EPS-2026 for pension on higher wages, the new Employees Provident Funds Scheme (also cleared by the Board) rules, through para 9 (iv), have retained the arrangement for any employee and his employer to make a joint request in writing for allowing the former to contribute from such wages exceeding wage ceiling. Such an employee shall be entitled to the benefits, the rules state.

Also, paragraph 19 of the rules refer to "additional voluntary contribution" by employees with employers being under no obligation to do so.

The Air India Express flight that made a hard landing at the Phuket airport in Thailand on Tuesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Air India Express flight makes hard landing at Phuket

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

An Air India Express flight, travelling from Hyderabad to Phuket, made a hard landing at the Phuket International Airport on Tuesday, damaging its nose wheel and leaving the aircraft stranded on the airport's only runway.

The incident forced authorities to suspend operations at the airport for several hours, with multiple flights being diverted or delayed.

The airline's Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft touched down at 11.24 a.m. local time. A video that went viral on social media showed the aircraft bouncing on the runway before settling down. Photos circulating online appeared to show the nose wheel missing after the landing, with a metal rod embedded in the ground.

No injuries

There were no injuries in the incident. "The crew followed all standard protocols, and guests were deplaned," the airline said in a press statement. The runway was closed after the incident. The aircraft was removed from the runway nearly seven hours later, and flight operations resumed at the airport later in the day. The aircraft was declared temporarily unairworthy.

Reliance silent on 'historic' refinery deal with U.S.

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Despite U.S. President Donald Trump announcing on social media on Wednesday that Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) would be investing in a new refinery in the U.S., calling it a "historic" $300 billion deal, RIL remained mum throughout the day.

The company did not make any announcement nor informed stock exchanges, fuelling speculations on the veracity of Mr. Trump's claims.

On a day when the stock market was down nearly 2%, the RIL stock closed 1.27% lower at ₹1,391.10 on the BSE.

According to Mr. Trump's social media post, the refinery would be constructed in Brownsville, Texas, and this would be the first new refinery in the U.S. in the past 50 years.

NC alleges attempt to kill Farooq in Jammu; one held

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Farooq Abdullah

The National Conference (NC) on Wednesday said there was an attempt on the life of party president Farooq Abdullah at a wedding ceremony in Jammu. One person has been detained, officials said.

"He [the accused] tried to kill Dr. Sahib. Allah has been kind and he survived [the attack]," said Nasir Aslam Wani, NC leader and adviser to J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

J&K Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary was also present at the event held at Royal Park, Greater Kailash, Jammu.

Initial reports said the accused brandished a pistol and tried to get close to Mr. Abdullah. He was overpowered by the security personnel guarding the NC chief. Eyewitnesses said he opened fire. However, the police did not confirm it.

"My father had a very close shave ...a man with a pistol was able to get within point-blank range and discharge a shot. There are more questions than answers at the moment including but not limited to how someone was able to get this close to a Z+ NSG protected former CM," the Chief Minister said on X.

Terming the incident a major security lapse, Mr. Choudhary said no one from the local police was present at the venue.

Judge distinguishes between active and passive euthanasia

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The distinction between "active" and "passive" euthanasia goes beyond the simplistic binary of "act" versus "omission", Supreme Court judge Justice J.B. Pardiwala said on Wednesday.

"The true distinction between active and passive euthanasia lies not merely in the nature of the conduct, i.e., acts or omissions, but also in the source of the harm that leads to death," Justice Pardiwala said in a judgment.

The judge characterised active euthanasia as causing death by introducing a new, external agency of harm, such as a lethal injection.

"In such cases, death is not the result of the patient's underlying illness, but of an intervention that sets a new chain of events in motion. It is for this reason that active euthanasia is understood as an intervention that disrupts the natural path towards death," Justice Pardiwala observed in the judgment.

By removing life support, the physician is not creating a new risk of death, the judge said. AP

Underlying condition

Conversely, he explained that passive euthanasia should be understood as allowing death to occur. By withdrawing or withholding life support, the physician is not creating a new risk of death. Rather, the doctors are choosing to allow the underlying fatal condition to take its natural course by no longer continuing the medical interventions that were artificially prolonging life.

"The undeniable fact is that the patient's affliction, i.e., the underlying medical condition, is not caused by any act or omission of the doctor. Rather, the underlying condition is due to factors independent of the doctor or their actions," Justice Pardiwala said. However, withdrawing treatment should not violate the duty of care a doctor owes a patient in all circumstances. "The surrendering of any medical effort must not be at loggerheads with the duty of care which joists all medical action," Justice Pardiwala emphasised.

The judgment said active euthanasia involved a "positive, overt act" designed to curtail the natural lifespan and extinguish life.

'Right to dignified death prevails over interest of the state'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court held on Wednesday that the state's absolute interest to preserve life must become subservient to a patient's right to dignity at a tipping point when medical interventions become increasingly futile and invasive while the chances of recovery keep dropping.

"When the degree of bodily invasion progressively increases, and the prognosis for recovery progressively decreases, there arises a certain point when the state's absolute interest in preserving life must become subservient to the dignity of the individual, though he is unconscious or incompetent," Justice J.B. Pardiwala said in a judgment upholding the withdrawal of life support to a 32-year-old man in a persistent vegetative state for over 12 years.

The court said that the interest of the state must not be allowed to overpower the dignity which must be equally assured to individuals in the process of life and death.

"Dignity is the most sacred possession of a human being. Its possession can neither be said to lose its sanctity in the process of death nor when death occurs," Justice Pardiwala observed.

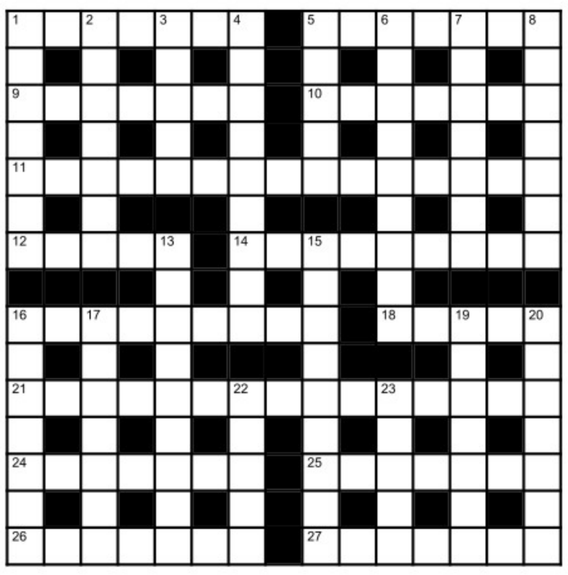
Temporarily keeping alive a terminally ill patient who was brain dead or in PVS, solely because doctors are able to leverage the technological advancements in medicine, and compelling such patients to endure a slow, agonising death, cannot fully be compatible with the Constitutional ideal of dignity, Justice Pardiwala said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14739

(set by Avtaar)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Thinking about article on origin of Kazakh people (7)
5 Scrap union's rule amidst return of Oriental pandemic disease (7)
9 Building in college to preserve antique receptacle for clothing (7)
10 Consumer of weekend US erotica (3-4)
11 Tory who's in a soup bungling request for guest's preference (5,4,6)
12 Fish cake and light soups regularly kept out on the counter (5)
14 Bigwig with suit catching international flight (9)
16 Agave fibre from Lemhi Pass in a pickle (5,4)
18 Country, say, Vespucci summarised incompletely in review (5)
21 Grand Ormolu that stands for path of integrity? (4,5,6)
24 Popular drug smuggled in fleece for Brit in South Africa (7)
25 Flat surface at the end of empty abyss is rocking (7)
26 Provided drink after unwrapping wine (7)
27 Holding rings for miniature speakers, they play the horn (7)

Down

1 Old-time New Yorkers' way of working with birds (7)
2 One in the middle of Elgar cryptic "Face of Somalian antelopes" (7)
3 Yes, mam instinctively recalled entertaining religious scholars (5)
4 Boy climbing atop villa overlooking one Himalayan town (9)
5 Love holding king down (5)
6 Affair involving Earl featured in 6-G hit film (5-4)
7 Ship arose eerily outside the Last Ocean (4,3)
8 Order first item from rose incense boxes (7)
13 Person lighting weak explosive drilling under hollow (9)
15 One taking fight to the next round? (9)
16 Tips from Slavic star introducing piece of zippy, fast music (7)
17 Stop working of fins moving around cap in generator (4,3)
19 Fall way behind after cycling ends in awful failure (7)
20 Beggars start to dance in prison with discharged rangers (7)
22 Searched thoroughly, runs with nude shedding top (5)
23 Old brown liquor lacking pressure sent up (5)

SUDOKU

	4	1			2	7		
	8				3	1	6	
				1	4	2		
		8					1	
	7						2	
	3					5		
		7	5	3				
	9	2	8				5	
		4	1			8	9	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

G	L	F	W	O	B	P		
G	E	M	I	N	I	A	P	P
L	A	U	S	E	N	M	E	P
U	D	M	K	E	E	P	S	S
T	I	L	L	H	E	I	R	T
T	E	A	T	V	A	R	A	N
A	S	I	N	E	I	G	H	S
T	N	S	C	R	D	E	L	I
G	H	T	P	E	N	D	A	N
T	M	I	C	A	A	S	A	L
A	A	M	R	A	M	A	Y	A
N	A	C	L	A	I	A	K	B
U	F	F	L	A	N	G	U	I
S	H	E	D	M	A	A	K	R
P	E	B	E	T	R	A	Y	A
L	Y	E	A	R	N	S	N	M
A	E	A	R	S				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	3	6	8	1	7	4	9	5
7	4	1	9	6	5	8	3	2
5	9	8	4	2	3	1	7	6
6	8	5	2	3	9	7	4	1
4	7	9	1	5	6	2	8	3
3	1	2	7	8	4	5	6	9
9	2	4	3	7	1	6	5	8
1	5	7	6	9	8	3	2	4
8	6	3	5	4	2	9	1	7

FAITH

Bhishma's steely resolve

The Mahabharata narrates the stories of many noble and pious men and expounds various dharmas and the fundamental tenets of Hinduism. Scriptures caution us that Dharma should never be given up under any circumstance, regardless of the trials one may face.

The comforts and sorrows people experience are temporary. Only dharma is permanent. Equally, our physical body is perishable, and only the soul is permanent. We have to tread the path of dharma before our life span expires.

Sri Damodhara Dikshitar said in a discourse that the grandsire Bhishma once took a solemn vow to his father that he would never marry. Later, when Amba insisted that Bhishma marry her, he firmly refused, as it would violate the vow he had taken.

Unable to secure justice, Amba approached Bhishma's preceptor Parasurama and pleaded with him to intervene and compel Bhishma to marry her. Out of compassion for Amba, the Acharya asked Bhishma to accept her. This placed Bhishma in a highly precarious situation. However, Bhishma declared with unwavering firmness that the earth may lose its fragrance, fire may lose its lustre, the sky may be without sound, air may cease to blow, Indra – the chief of the celestials – may lose his valour, water may fail to give taste, and even Dharmaraja may act without dharma, but Bhishma would never transgress the promise he had made. Thus, despite being caught in a difficult and complex predicament, Bhishma remained steadfast and resolute in upholding his vow, demonstrating his extraordinary commitment to truth and dharma.

INBRIEF

Market rout continues as benchmark indices fall 1.6%

Indian benchmark indices continued their rout on Wednesday, declining 1.6% as panic builds on dwindling LPG reserve and persistently elevated Brent crude prices. Benchmark Nifty 50 dipped 1.6% to 23,866.85 points, while Sensex fell 1.7% to 76,863.71 as energy prices stayed elevated and panic prevailed across different parts of the country over possible business shutdowns due to shortage of commercial gas. Nifty opened at 24,231 points and reached the day's high of 24,299 points before slipping to the day's close. The decline, however, was relatively less broad-based compared with more severe previous sessions in the past week as 16 of the 21 sectoral indices declined. Brent Crude futures stayed elevated at over $90 a barrel. The rupee too depreciated to over ₹92 a dollar reflecting the mounting effects of the oil price shock.

IEA proposes largest ever oil release from strategic reserves

The International Energy Agency has proposed the largest release of oil reserves in its history to restrain soaring crude prices amid the U.S.-Israel war with Iran, the Wall Street Journal said on Tuesday, citing officials familiar with the matter.

The release would exceed the 182 million barrels of oil that IEA member nations put on the market in two releases in 2022 when Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the newspaper said. The IEA called an extraordinary meeting of members on Tuesday, with nations expected to decide on the proposal the following day, the paper added. The plan would be adopted if there were no objections, it said, but protests by even one country could delay the effort. Meanwhile, the Centre on Wednesday said it welcomes the decision from the International Energy Agency to release emergency oil stocks amid the prevailing supply disruptions. REUTERS

LPG output rises 25% since issue of supply maintenance orders

Consumers urged to refrain from panic booking; govt. working to expand the coverage of delivery authentication code system to address diversion

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Allaying fears: Joint Secretary of the MoPNG Sujata Sharma speaks during the inter-ministerial briefing on Wednesday. ANI

India's production of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) has increased 25% since the government instituted the supply maintenance order on March 8, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told reporters at an inter-ministerial briefing here on Wednesday.

"It is because of these measures [that is, supply maintenance orders], India's domestic LPG production has increased by 25% and all this domestic LPG is being directed to household consumers," she stated.

Further, addressing the aspect of hoarding, she observed, "Feedback suggests some panic booking and hoarding has been triggered by misinformation." The senior official added, "I would want to inform the normal delivery cycle of domestic LPG remains [unaffected] at 2.5 days. Therefore, there is no need for customers to rush for booking cylinders, there is no need for panic booking."

Ms. Sharma also told reporters that the government was working to expand the coverage of delivery authentication code (DAC) system to 90% of domestic consumers to address issues relating to diversion at the distributor level.

Concerns over a supply gauntlet in cooking gas emanated following the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Tehran amid escalating tensions in West Asia.

Essential to note though, according to government data, India imports 60% of its LPG requirements of which 90% is routed through the Strait of Hormuz.

Further to address black-marketing, C. Senthil Rajan, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), who was also present at the press briefing, told reporters that the Secretary at the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had held a meeting with Chief Secretaries and the Director Generals of Police of all States and Union Territories to "take proactive efforts in preventing hoarding and any black marketing that could be going on in States". It was also suggested to institute a State-level spokesperson to "provide credible information to public".

Vessels in Persian Gulf

Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary at the Ministry of Shipping and Waterways, told reporters that 28 vessels with Indian flags were operating in the Strait of Hormuz.

Of these, 24 are in the Western part of the Strait of Hormuz and 4 in the Eastern part of the Strait.

The vessels on the Western part of the Strait have 677 Indian seafarers on board, whilst 101 were onboard vessels in the Eastern part. "We are actively monitoring the vessels for their security and safety," Mr. Sinha informed.

'India has overall coal stock for 88 days, can meet rising demand'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has an overall coal stock of 210 million tonnes (MT) which would be adequate for about 88 days, the Coal Ministry informed on Wednesday as India prepares to spur coal production to ensure availability to meet peak demand in summer.

According to data from the Coal Ministry, pithead coal stock, or coal that has been mined and stored at the pithead for transporting to relevant sectors, with Coal India, was 121.39 MT as on March 9, with another 6.07 MT with its subsidiary Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL). Further, another 15.12 MT was housed with captive/commercial mines and approximately 14 MT in transit, thus bringing the total to 156.85 MT.

'War may knock off a modest percentage of IT growth short term'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The global technology sector, that was already reeling under multiple uncertainties, will witness a dip in growth as an immediate fall out of the ongoing US-Israeli strikes on Iran which rapidly brought conflicts and uncertainty to West Asia, global technology analysts told *The Hindu*.

Peter Bendor-Samuel, CEO, Founder and Chairman of Everest Group, a Dallas-based consulting and research firm, forecast, "At most, the war-triggered uncertainty might knock off 1/4 percentage of growth of the global tech industry. We were expecting a modest bump-up this quarter, in the 1.5% to 2% range, now that bump-up may be a little less and in the lower range.''

Avinash Vashistha, Global Chairman and CEO, Tholons and former Chairman and MD of Accenture in India observed, the U.S businesses were already slowing down and now the war made it only worse.

The U.S. Fed cut its GDP growth forecast to 1.4%, the slowest in eight years, and large outsourcing contracts were already feeling the pinch, he elaborated adding TCS MD Krithivasan confirmed "demand contraction" due to macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainties, with decision-making delays intensifying. "The war has pushed the recovery timeline further out for the industry,'' Mr. Vashistha commented.

'Investment rule tweaks will benefit electronics, rare earths'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The easing of rules related to investment from countries sharing a land border with India will help in the manufacture of capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, polysilicon and ingot wafers, advanced battery components, rare earth permanent magnets, and rare earths themselves, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary Amardeep Singh Bhatia said here on Wednesday.

Sector analysts and industry players too have welcomed the move, saying it will increase the flow of capital into India, and encourage foreign companies to enter into joint ventures here.

Industry bodies and investment analysts too have welcomed the decision.

"For India's electronics sector, this policy can help accelerate investments and high volume process technologies in electronic components, passive devices, connectors, PCB fabrication, electronic capital goods, and upstream materials such as polysilicon and silicon wafers, which are essential building blocks of the electronics manufacturing ecosystem," Ashok Chandak, President of the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association said.

Why is India staring at LPG deficit?

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman

In demand: A man sits on an empty LPG cylinder amid supply disruptions following the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran. REUTERS

With LPG shortage hitting day-to-day life in India, data suggest while the nation opted for a dramatic surge in LPG use, especially among poor households, driven by imports, there was no plan to boost long-term, strategic LPG reserves in parallel.

With more than 85% of all of India's imports having to cross Strait of Hormuz to reach the nation's shores and limited back-up storage, the disruption hit quickly unlike in the case of auto fuels where strategic reserves of crude oil and products are equal to two months of consumption.

The Indian LPG system is designed for operational flow, not stockpiling. And there are no concrete proposals currently to increase large underground storage either. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has flagged the lack of such storage as an infrastructural weakness in India.

Surge in domestic gas

IEA figures show India's LPG imports increased threefold from 2011-12 to 2024-25 to some 20 million tonne. Imports constitute some 60% of India's needs. India's import dependency has increased from 47% in 2015 to the current levels.

In FY26, imports had crossed 18 million tonne till January. India's total LPG consumption a month is some 3 million tonne making it the second-largest consumer of LPG in the world. But, the total storage capacity can feed less than half of that monthly requirement and almost all of it in tanks at import terminals such as Ennore.

In terms of long-term storage, India has two underground caverns for LPG - Mangaluru and Visakhapatnam with a total storage capacity of 1.4 lakh tonne. While Visakhapatnam storage was commissioned in 2007, only one has been commissioned since the ramping up of LPG consumption started - Mangaluru with 80,000 metric tonne or just a day's consumption.

Total underground storage amounts to 1.4 lakh tonne or less than two days of consumption

The total underground storage amounts to 1.4 lakh tonne or less than two days of consumption. India's daily LPG consumption stands at some 80,000 tonne with more than 85% going to households.

The country has 33 crore domestic LPG connections out of which some 10 crore were added since 2017 through the through Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY).

The PMUY scheme sought to offer clean cooking gas to poor people as well, freeing women from the drudgery of firewood-based chulhas, cow-dung and kerosene stoves. The scheme gave deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households and subsidised the purchase as well. The surge in Indian LPG consumption as well as import dependency is attributed to this scheme.

The MoPNG, in its demand for grants in 2025 in Parliament, said there were no plans for constructing additional caverns, besides the two. The Mangaluru cavern became operational in 2025.

India signed an LPG import agreement with the U.S. in February for 2.2 million tonne per year but the U.S. cargoes take some 45 days to reach India unlike the Persian Gulf cargoes.

Underground caverns

Europe can store roughly 25% of total annual gas consumption, says Christoph Halser, Senior Analyst, Gas & LNG Research, Rystad Energy, an energy research and business intelligence firm in Norway.

"Unlike for oil, where a mandate for 90 days emergency stock equivalent exists, European countries do not have a strategic government-controlled gas reserve and are not required to go by the EU.

The EU imposed storage filling targets for public storage facilities first in 2022, following the outbreak of war in Ukraine.

These mandate member countries to reach 90% filling levels before the winter, with exceptions for market disruptions and technical constraints." adds Mr. Halser.

India can be broadly divided into three geological zones relevant for such gas storage. The most proven is the Peninsular Shield–the Archean cratonic basement of granite, gneiss and charnockite underlying about 60% of peninsular India.

Both operational LPG gas caverns sit on this rock.

At Visakhapatnam, the storage cavern lies 162 to 196 metre below ground level in Precambrian gneiss, using the hydraulic containment principle.

At Mangaluru, the host rock is granitic gneiss, with the floor at 141 metre below mean sea level. The engineering is proven. The rock is cooperative.

The second zone is the Deccan Traps–the vast basaltic plateau covering some 5,00,000 square kilometre of western and central India. For storage purposes, the traps present challenges. Engineers India Limited, designing a new LPG facility on the west coast, has encountered difficulties.

The third zone is the salt formations of Rajasthan's Bikaner-Barmer belt. These halite deposits can be used as cavern storage.

Cheaper, faster

Salt caverns are cheaper and faster to construct, naturally impermeable, and capable of rapid injection and withdrawal.

A refinery is under construction at Barmer and crude pipelines traverse the region. EIL has signed a partnership pact with Germany's DEEP for salt cavern know-how.

A fourth option–depleted gas reservoirs in the Krishna-Godavari, Cambay and Mumbai offshore basins – is under study.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT **e- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited for supply of **1) 40,000 Kgs of Fried Bengal Gram Dhall 2)90,000 Kgs of Black Gram Dhall (Rounds) without husk (Urad Dal), 3) 3,000 Tins of Gingelly Oil (each Tin 15 kgs Net), 4) 40,000 Kgs of Roasted Vermicelli, 5) 4,50,000 Kgs of Thoor Dhall (Red gram Dhal or Arhar Dal)** Through e-tenders to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For tender Notice and tender details log on to the website http://www.tirumala.org and https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. For Further details contact Phone Numbers **0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.432),Date: 11.03.2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER **TENDER NOTICE**

Adv. No.69/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No. 55/SE-III/TTD/2025-26, Dated: 09.03.2026

Name of Work: 1) Construction of Sri Padmavathi & Sri AndalSametha Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Karimnagar, Telangana State. Amount : 2000.00 Lakhs, **Time for completion :** 18 Months
For full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC(Adv.No.431),Date: 11.03.2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora
Near Vikas Bhawan, Pandeykhola, Almora, Distt-Almora-263601 (Uttarakhand)
E-mail - principal.gmcalmora@gmail.com http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org
मोबाइल सं.:- 9412410759 फोन नम्बर-05962-230557

Letter No. 977/GMCA-/G-1/Advertisement/2025-26 Date:-11 March, 2026

Walk-In-Interview

A Walk In interview for various post of **"Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor" at Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora** will be held on **02-04-2026 at 10:00 am** on wards in **"Office of the Principal, Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora".** Registration will be done on the day of interview till 1:00 PM only. The post will be filled on yearly renewal contract basis for a maximum period of **03 (three) years** or till regular appointment are made. For further details please visit our **website:-**

http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org, www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in & www.hnbumu.ac.in

Principal
SSJ Govt. IMSR Almora
Almora

राजस्थान सरकार
कौशल, नियोजन एवं उद्यमिता विभाग,
प्राथमिक शिक्षा निदेशालय, राजस्थान, जोधपुर
W-6, गौरव-पथ, जोधपुर Ph. 0291-2432290, FAX-0291-2632339, E-mail- scheme.dot@rajasthan.gov.in
No: DTE/T-4(SCHEME)/PMPES/4324(3)/2026/60568 Date: 27/2/2026

Corrigendum-1

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2025–26 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किये जो रहे है:–

S. No.	UBN No.	Corrigendum
01	UBN No. UBN: TET2526SLOB00140 ,TET2526SLOB00141 ,TET2526SLOB00142 ,TET2526SLOB00143 ,TET2526SLOB00144 ,TET2526SLOB00145 ,TET2526SLOB00146 ,TET2526SLOB00147	RFP में आवश्यक संशोधन के अध्यधीन प्री–बिड मीटिंग दिनांक 04.03.2026 के स्थान पर 16.03.2026 की जा रही हैं।

अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।
DIPR/C/4990/26 निदेशक (प्रशिक्षण)

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Ajmer
Qtr. No. II/2, PHED Colony, Vaishali Nagar, near RIICO Watch Factory,
Ph. No. 0145-2640265, Fax No. 0145-2640265,
Email: acepajm.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
S.No. F( )ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM (SEPIU II /2025-26/7502 Date: 12.02.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS NIT No. 03/2025-26

Bid for "Retrofitting Works of RWSS of 97 villages & Dhanies of Nawa Tehsil under JJM for providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) in Rural area of Nawa Tehsil with Ten Years Operation and Maintenance (up to VTC) excluding One Year Defect Liability Period after successful completion and commissioning of the work" is invited for interested bidders up to 16.03.2026. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)** of the state.

"SAVE WATER - SAVE LIFE"

UBN No. : PHE2526WLOB13856
NIB No.: PHE2526A6441
(Gopesh Garg)
Additional Chief Engineer (Project)
PHED, Region, Ajmer
DIPR/C/5115/2026

कार्यालय नगर निगम जयपुर
(सोफिया स्कूल के सामने, घाटगेट जयपुर)
क्रमांक :– जसअ/2025/533 दिनांक: 09.03.2026

ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या –127/2025–26 किशनपोल जोन

केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों में पंजीकृत "AA" "A" श्रेणी के ठेकेदारों एवं नगर निगम जयपुर में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (किषनपोल जोन) से सम्बन्धित विकास कार्यो हेतु ई– निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्यो की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण नगर निगम जयपुर की वेबसाईट **www.jaipurmcheritage.org.com** व राजस्थान सरकार के पोर्टल **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** तथा **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी व डाउनलोड की जाकर पोर्टल **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर अपलोड की जा सकती है।
स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पार्टल का **Unique Bid Number JMC2526WSOB02916** है।
अधिशाषी अभियन्ता
(किशनपोल जोन)
नगर निगम जयपुर
राज.संवाद/सी/25/22162

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-Tender No.	Tender Description:	Estimated Cost
CPC-64/2025-26	Bids invited from reputed manufacturers in two part bidding system for supply of 400kV Composite Long Rod Insulator in e-tendering mode only. **Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 06.04.2026 upto 12:30 hr.**	**Rs. 72,86,063.00**
EHTC/RGDA/CLE/ET/03/2025-26	Bids invited under single stage two-envlop system from reputed contractors for Balance civil works of 132/33kV Grid Sub-station, Borigumma under EHT (P) Division, Jeypore in e-tendering mode only. **Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 30.03.2026 upto 11:00 Hrs.**	**Rs. 38,36,003.00**

Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in**.

/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-80/2025-26

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WASHINGTON

'War could end soon; nothing left to target in Iran,' says Trump

AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday again signalled there could be a swift ending to the U.S. war on Iran, saying there is little left in the country for U.S. forces to attack. There is "practically nothing left to target" and the war will end "soon," Mr. Trump was quoted as saying in an interview with Axios. AFP

MOSCOW

Britain was involved in Ukraine's missile strike on Russia: Kremlin

AFP

The Kremlin on Wednesday accused British specialists of involvement in a deadly Ukrainian strike on the Russian city of Bryansk that used British Storm Shadow missiles and said it would take Britain's role "into account". The Bryansk regional governor said the strike killed at least six civilians and injured 37. REUTERS

COLOMBO

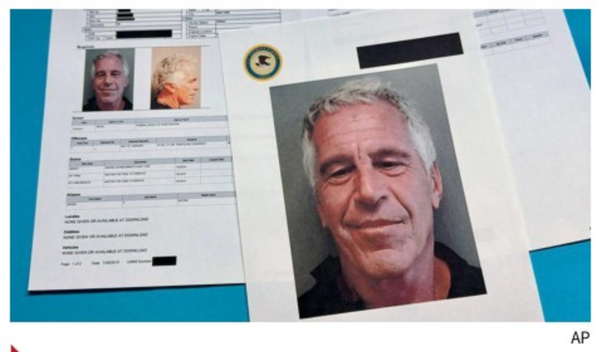
Sri Lanka court orders handover of Iranian sailors' bodies to embassy

AP

A Sri Lankan court on Wednesday ordered that the bodies of 84 Iranian sailors killed in a U.S. attack on an Iranian vessel off the island nation's coast be handed over to Iran's embassy. Currently, the bodies are stored at Galle National Hospital. A U.S. attack sank the Iranian frigate *IRIS Dena* a week ago. PTI

WARSAW

Polish prosecutors start human trafficking probe into Epstein ring



AP

Polish prosecutors said on Wednesday they were investigating human trafficking tied to Jeffrey Epstein they suspect took place in the country. The National Prosecutor's Office said it was looking into whether women were recruited in Poland "by misleading them as to the true nature of prospective employment abroad". AFP

Iran's Supreme Leader is injured but 'safe and sound': President's son

Mojtaba's injuries are believed to have occurred during an air strike in Tehran that killed his father, Ali Khamenei; he has not appeared publicly since his appointment by the Assembly of Experts; reports say he is sheltering in a secure location

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is injured but "safe and sound", the son of the President said on Wednesday, offering the first official explanation for why the 56-year-old has not been seen since his appointment at the weekend.

"I heard news that Mr. Mojtaba Khamenei had been injured. I have asked some friends who had connections," Yousef Pezeshkian, who is also a government adviser, wrote in a post on his Telegram channel.

"They told me that, thank God, he is safe and sound," added the son of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

A portrait of Mojtaba Khamenei being displayed during the funerals of IRGC commanders killed in the U.S.-Israeli strikes. AFP

Mojtaba Khamenei, until now a low profile if powerful behind-the-scenes figure, was named Iran's number one following the killing of his father Ali Khamenei in an air strike at the start of the U.S.-Israeli war against the Islamic republic.

But there had been mounting questions about his whereabouts and physical condition after his appointment by the Assembly of Experts clerical body, with the new Supreme Leader yet to be seen, let alone speak, in public.

State television had called Mr. Khamenei a "wounded veteran of the Ramzan war" without giving details, in reference to the conflict which broke out during the holy Muslim fasting month.

In a report on Wednesday, the *New York Times* quoting three unnamed Iranian officials said that Mr. Khamenei "had suffered injuries, including to his legs, but that he was alert and sheltering at a highly secure location with limited communication".

There has been speculation that he was injured in the day-time air strike on a compound in Tehran that killed his father, as well as his mother and wife on the first day of the war on February 28.

His face has appeared on giant billboards in Tehran, with one showing him symbolically receiving the national flag from his father Ali while the founding leader of the Islamic republic, Ruhollah Khomeini, looks on.

Posters of him were brandished by thousands of pro-government supporters at a huge rally in central Tehran on Monday.

RSP gets highest number of votes, says Nepal's EC

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

The counting of votes under the proportional representation category in Nepal concluded on Wednesday, with the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) receiving the highest number of votes, according to the Election Commission.

The House of Representatives (HoR) in Nepal has a total of 275 seats. While 165 members are elected through the First Past The Post (FPTP) or direct voting system, 110 members are elected through proportional representation.

"The vote counting concluded. But final results are yet to be published since data entry is still taking place," an EC official said.

According to the latest updates provided by the EC, a total of 1,07,85,876 votes were counted. The Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) received 51,57,130 votes, followed by the Nepali Congress, which secured 17,55,872 votes.

Supporters of Rastriya Swatantra Party celebrate the victory of a candidate for a seat in the House of Representatives, in Nepal. AP

The CPN-UML secured 14,52,758 votes while the Nepali Communist Party received 8,09,577 votes. The Shram Sanskriti Party secured 3,85,741 votes, and the Rastriya Prajatantra Party 3,30,268 votes.

The RSP, Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, NCP, Shrama Sanskriti Party and Rastriya Prajatantra Party are likely to get recognition as national parties.

The RSP made history by winning 125 out of 165 seats under direct voting held on March 5. The NC won 18, UML 9, NCP 7, SS 3, RPP 1, Independent 1.

Eroding empire

Fallen icons: A statue depicting U.S. President Donald Trump and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, entitled 'The King of the World', on the National Mall in Washington DC in United States on Tuesday. REUTERS

Iranian police chief says anti-govt. protesters to be treated as 'enemies'

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian protesters will be treated as enemies if they support Tehran's foes, the country's top police officer warned, as the West Asia war sparked fears mass anti-government rallies could reignite.

"If anyone comes forward in line with the wishes of the enemy, we will no longer see them as merely a protester, we will see them as an enemy," said national police chief Ahmad-Reza Radan in comments aired by state broadcaster IRIB late on Tuesday.

Iranians attend an anti-government demonstration during the nationwide protests in Tehran in January this year. AP

"And we will do to them what we do to an enemy. We will deal with them in the same way we deal with enemies," he added.

"All our forces are also ready, with their hands on the trigger, prepared to defend their revolution."

His warning comes after the government cracked down on anti-government protests in January, sparked a month before over economic grievances in the sanctions-hit country.

The authorities deemed the protests to be "riots" and Mr. Radan at one point issued an ultimatum to protesters to hand themselves in or face the full force of the law.

Iranian authorities acknowledge more than 3,000 deaths in the unrest, but say the violence was caused by "terrorist acts".

Tucker Carlson: stirring Christian conservatives against war and Israel

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

"If you wake up in the morning living in the kind of country that thinks it's okay to kill – not simply military officers – but their daughters... That country is not worth fighting for," American conservative commentator Tucker Carlson said on March 9, about an airstrike on the Shajareh Tayyebeh girls' elementary school in Minab, southern Iran, on February 28. Multiple media platforms have blamed the U.S. for the attack that killed 168 children and 14 teachers.

Going all out against Israel and war-supporting politicians, including U.S. President Donald Trump, Mr. Carlson is taking the U.S. Christian conservative movement by storm. His views on war and politics, he says repeatedly, are guided by his Christian faith.

His targets – among them Senators Lindsey Graham and Ted Cruz, U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio – defend their support for Israel as a Christian obligation. Support Israel and be blessed, oppose Israel and be cursed – that is the summary of this faith. Mr. Graham, the South Carolina Senator and a main proponent for many years of attacking Iran, said recently: "If America pulls the plug on Israel, God will pull the plug on us."

Christian Zionism

Mr. Carlson confronts Mr. Graham and his ilk on the terrain of faith, arguing that support for the killing of innocents will bring god's curse upon America. "The New Testament is against killing the innocent. We are not, as Christians, allowed to kill the innocent. Period," he said at AmericaFest, the Turning Point USA annual conference in Phoenix, Arizona, on December 18, 2025.

Christian Zionism, the theological framework that guides the politics of many leaders such as those named above, is based on a literal reading of the Old Testament. Christian Zionists consider the Jews the chosen people of God, and the modern nation-state of Israel as the historical continuity of the Israel of the Old Testament. This is at odds with mainstream Christian theology, which holds the church as a universal promise of God, with no ethnic marker for the chosen people.

Most mainline churches reject claims of theological exceptionalism for Jews or for the State of Israel and would prefer to support a two-state solution to the conflict. The Vatican established diplomatic relations with Israel in 1993, acknowledging political reality, yet has historically opposed the theological basis of Zionism. Mr. Rubio is a Catholic, but his views are closely aligned with Christian Zionism. Christian Zionists believe that following a period of "great tribulation" – war and destruction in which Israel plays a central role – Jesus will return and establish a millennial kingdom on earth. Mr. Carlson has been a fierce critic of American support for Israel, particularly on Christian grounds. In June 2025, he confronted Mr. Cruz on his unquestioning support for Israel; the Senator ended up citing the Old Testament to justify it. The video has been viewed more than 39 million times on X alone. Mr. Carlson's interview with Mr. Huckabee on February 18, 2026 became one of the most widely discussed examinations of U.S.-Israel ties in recent years.

Going all out against Israel and Donald Trump, Tucker Carlson is taking the U.S. Christian conservative movement by storm. AP

Mr. Carlson criticises American support for Israel on secular, strategic grounds, too. Speaking at the Doha Forum last year, he described Israel as "a completely insignificant country" with "no resources" and dismissed the relationship bluntly: "What are we getting out of this? Nothing. It's only cost."

The Iraq and Afghanistan wars, he argues, produced nothing but "incalculable damage – not just economic and physical damage, but spiritual damage" to the U.S. A war fought for Israel would be a repetition of the same error. A long-time ally of Mr. Trump and the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement, he pressed the President against going to war until it happened. Mr. Trump has since distanced himself from Mr. Carlson, who has only escalated his campaign.

Culture wars

Christian conservatives were united in their culture war with liberals and progressives on abortion, homosexuality and same-sex marriage, on opposing immigration, and on emphasising the civilisational exceptionalism of the West. Mr. Carlson has been the flagbearer for all these causes. Benjamin Netanyahu's relentless efforts to push the boundaries of Israel's conflict with its neighbours, literally and metaphorically, forced an urgent question upon them: what is the proper Christian response? The hegemony of media in the U.S. has been broken by social media platforms, and Mr. Carlson has the perfect pulpit for his prophecies on U.S. and world politics.

Republican lawmakers publicly acknowledge Mr. Carlson's influence over the party's voters, and even progressive voices have adopted a more measured view of his politics. Mr. Carlson is closely aligned with Vice President J.D. Vance, himself an opponent of the war. Mr. Carlson is a game changer in the American conservative religious landscape because he is able to strike at the very roots of the mythology that the present political entity of the State of Israel is the historical continuity and replica of the Israel of the Old Testament – a myth that has fed and strengthened generations of the Christian right in the U.S. His campaign against America's appetite for war, waged on New Testament ground, is old wine in a new bottle – but it may be more potent than anything that came before.

RUNS TO RICHES

T20 World Cup winner India receives ₹25 crore as prize money

EMMANUAL YOGINI

India received $2,639,423 (approximately ₹25 crore), the biggest share from the prize pool, after emerging triumphant in the T20 World Cup. Runner-up New Zealand earned $1,422,692 (₹13 crore), while semifinalists South Africa and England received $1,005,577 (₹9.24 crore) and $974,423 (₹8.96 crore) respectively.

SOARING AHEAD

Kishan rises to career-high second in ICC T20I rankings; Varun slips

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Ishan Kishan rode on his superb T20 World Cup campaign to climb to a career-high second spot and trailed the top-ranked Abhishek Sharma by just four points in the ICC list for T20I batters. In the T20I bowlers' ranking list, India spinner Varun Chakaravarthy lost the No. 1 position to Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan.

BEST IN THE BUSINESS

Kumble names MI and CSK as the 'greatest' IPL teams

FILE PHOTO: M. VEDHAN

Former India captain Anil Kumble opined that Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings are almost equal when it comes to being the "greatest team" in IPL history. "MI is very close to or almost the same as CSK when you talk about the greatest team in the IPL. You can't really distinguish one from the other," Kumble said on JioStar.

WINNING START

Nahid shines as Bangladesh thrashes Pakistan in first ODI

AFP

Pacer Nahid Rana grabbed a maiden five-wicket haul as Bangladesh posted a dominant eight-wicket win against a new-look Pakistan in the first ODI in Dhaka. **The scores:** Pakistan 114 in 30.4 overs (Nahid Rana 5/24, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 3/29) lost to Bangladesh 115/2 in 15.1 overs (Tanzid 67 n.o). **Toss:** Bangladesh; **PoM:** Nahid.

Chinnaswamy to host opener between Royal Challengers and Sunrisers on March 28

The matches scheduled to be held in Bengaluru are subject to clearance from the Expert Committee constituted by the Govt. of Karnataka, following the stampede that claimed 11 lives during RCB's title-winning celebrations last year

IPL 2026

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

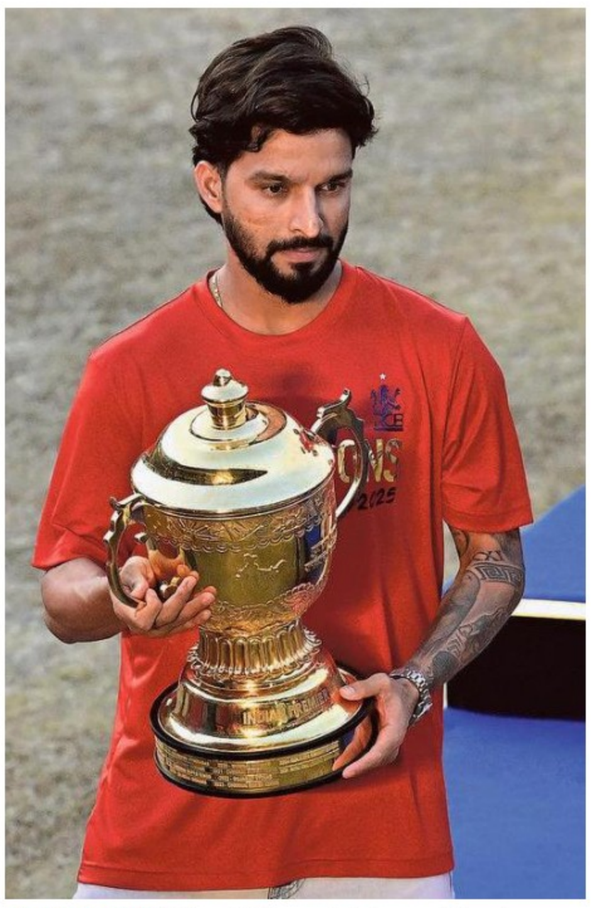
Defending champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru will face Sunrisers Hyderabad in the opening match of IPL 2026 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on March 28.

The key fixture was part of the first phase schedule (March 28 to April 12) announced by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Wednesday. The rest of the tournament schedule will be released after the State Assembly election dates of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam are announced.

Following the opening encounter, Mumbai Indians will go up against Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday.

RCB, Rajasthan Royals and Punjab Kings will have two home grounds this season. RCB will play five home matches in Bengaluru and two in Raipur.

PBKS will play four home games in New Chandigarh and three in Dharamshala, while RR will play three home matches in Guwahati and four in Jaipur.



The first to do it: Skipper Patidar ended a long wait to put Royal Challengers on the honours board. FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

Matches scheduled in Bengaluru are subject to clearance from the Expert Committee constituted by the Government of Karnataka, following the stampede that claimed 11 lives during RCB's title-winning celebrations last year.

The committee will conduct a meeting and inspection of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday to assess the stadium's preparedness, the BCCI noted.

A total of 20 matches will be played in this first phase across 10 venues. Four double headers will be held in this period on weekends.

The first double-header will take place on April 4 (Delhi Capitals vs. MI, 3.30 p.m. start in Delhi, followed by Gujarat Titans taking on Royals, 7.30 p.m. in Ahmedabad).

The high-profile RCB-Chennai Super Kings fixture will be held in Bengaluru on April 5 (7.30 p.m.).

TATA IPL 2026
FIRST PHASE

Date	Teams	Venue	Time
March 28	RCB vs. SRH	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m
March 29	MI vs. KKR	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.
March 30	RR vs. CSK	Guwahati	7.30 p.m.
March 31	PBKS vs. GT	New Chandigarh	7.30 p.m.
April 1	LSG vs. DC	Lucknow	7.30 p.m.
April 2	KKR vs. SRH	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 3	CSK vs. PBKS	Chennai	7.30 p.m.
April 4	DC vs. MI	Delhi	3.30 p.m.
April 4	GT vs. RR	Ahmedabad	7.30 p.m.
April 5	SRH vs. LSG	Hyderabad	3.30 p.m.
April 5	RCB vs. CSK	Bengaluru	7.30 p.m.
April 6	KKR vs. PBKS	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 7	RR vs. MI	Guwahati	7.30 p.m.
April 8	DC vs. GT	Delhi	7.30 p.m.
April 9	KKR vs. LSG	Kolkata	7.30 p.m.
April 10	RR vs. RCB	Guwahati	7.30 p.m
April 11	PBKS vs. SRH	New Chandigarh	3.30 p.m
April 11	CSK vs. DC	Chennai	7.30 p.m.
April 12	LSG vs. GT	Lucknow	3.30 p.m.
April 12	MI vs. RCB	Mumbai	7.30 p.m.

The remaining schedule will be announced later.

I rely on my instincts, don't depend on data: Gambhir

ANI
NEW DELHI

Gautam Gambhir said he relies primarily on his instinct when making decisions as a coach, stressing that he backs his judgement without depending heavily on data.

Gambhir noted that every leader brings a unique vision and his approach on how the Indian team plays, conducts itself and operates reflects his personal philosophy during his tenure.

"I think my instinct is what I trust the most. I don't look at data, I don't look at anything else. If my instinct says that it is the right call for the team, I will back it to the hilt. If it doesn't work, I'll be the first one to put my hand up and say, yes, it didn't work.

"Everyone has different ways of looking at things. My idea, with me being the head coach now, is my vision for the team. It could be completely different to someone who has run the show before me or someone who will run the show after me," said Gambhir.

Job well done: The T20 captain-coach duo of Suryakumar and Gambhir achieved its ultimate objective. FILE PHOTO: PTI

No tailoring pitches

Gambhir dismissed the criticism that Indian wickets were 'tailored' to suit the home team, assserting that such claims are often made to create controversy and attract views.

"I don't agree to that. Why would you tailor something? And honestly, India is too good a team to be even thinking about something like that and in the T20 format, whether you look in Australia or South Africa, we made 200 runs. If we make 200 runs in India, then the wickets get tailored.

"I think some people want to create a controversy. That's why I say, the statements given for views and TRPs should not be acceptable."

"In ICC tournaments, they control the wickets. It's not the BCCI that controls the wickets, and in bilaterals, especially in the T20 format, it is a batter's game. No one wants to come and watch a 120-run T20 game. Everyone wants to watch that high-scoring game."

Gambhir lauded Suryakumar Yadav as a 'phenomenal leader'. "I think he's made my life a lot easier in this format because the way he keeps the atmosphere really light, handles the boys and has conversations with them, I think that is fantastic quality to have because then someone like me can focus on the tactical things.

"Surya and I worked together for a long time when I was captain with KKR, and he was the vice captain. So I know how he operates."

Iran can't play in the FIFA World Cup, says Sports Minister

Reuters
LONDON

Iran cannot participate in the 2026 World Cup after co-host United States launched airstrikes alongside Israel, Sports Minister Ahmad Donyamali said on Wednesday.

"Considering that this corrupt regime has assassinated our leader, under no circumstances can we participate in the World Cup. Our children are not safe and, fundamentally, such conditions for participation do not exist," Donyamali said on state television.

The 48-team World Cup will be held in USA, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19 and Iran is grouped with Belgium, Egypt and New Zealand.

All three of their Group G matches are scheduled to take place in the U.S., two in Los Angeles and one in Seattle.

Iran, which dominated the Asian qualifying rounds to qualify for the tournament in March last year, was the only nation missing from a FIFA planning summit for World Cup participants held last week in Atlanta. There was no immediate comment from the Iranian Football Federation or world football's governing body.

FIFA regulations state that any team that withdraws from the tournament "no later than 30 days before the first match" will be fined at least 250,000 Swiss francs ($320,800).

"Disciplinary sanctions may include the expulsion of the participating member association concerned from subsequent FIFA competitions and/or the replacement of the participating member association with another member association," FIFA's regulations say.

"The FIFA Council or the relevant committee may decide, in particular, to replace the member association in question with another association."

India outclasses Wales, seals a World Cup berth

WWC QUALIFIERS

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

With a spot in the semifinals of the Qualifiers and, more importantly, in the 2026 FIH Women's World Cup secured following Scotland's victory over Uruguay earlier in the day, India produced a commanding display to defeat Wales 4-1 in the World Cup Qualifiers at the G.M.C. Balayogi Hockey Ground here on Wednesday.

The host nearly went ahead in the second minute. Sunelita Toppo latched on to Neha's cross-field aerial on the left and found Lalremsiami in the circle, but the forward's first touch let her down.

Breaking through

India continued to dominate, with Navneet and Lalremsiami combining well before goalkeeper Ffion Horrell rushed out to halt a promising counter. The breakthrough came soon after.

Wales failed to clear their lines in the face of sustained Indian pressure. Sakshi Rana pounced on the loose ball, shifted to her left and fired a powerful shot into the back of the net.

Victory dance: India rode on Navneet's hat-trick to register a facile win against Wales. K.V.S. GIRI

India kept pushing for a second, looking to settle the contest before the interval. The Welsh defence held firm for a while, relying on disciplined positioning and a few wayward Indian attempts to stay in the game. But the Women in Blue doubled their advantage in the 29th minute.

Navneet Kaur created space on the edge of the circle and struck hard, with the ball taking a deflection off Horrell's pad before finding the net.

It capped a dominant first-half for India, which registered 15 shots to Wales' five – with five on target compared to the visitors' solitary effort.

India kept its foot on the pedal after the break and added a third through a penalty corner, Navneet striking into the bottom corner.

A rare lapse in concentration helped Wales pull one back. Betsan Thomas stole the ball from Udita near the baseline, drove forward and squeezed her shot between Bichu Devi and the near post.

Navneet completed a hat-trick in the dying minutes of the contest, guiding a precision strike off the inside of the right post and into the net from a penalty corner she won.

The partisan crowd erupted at the final whistle as India finished atop Pool B and booked a semifinal clash with Italy. England and Scotland will face off in the other semifinal.

The results: England 2 (Grace Balsdon 20-pc, Holly Hunt 48) bt Austria 0; Italy 1 (Federica Carta 7-ps) drew with Korea 1 (Jiyun Choi 26-ps); Scotland 3 (Fiona Burnet 10-pc, Katherine Holdgate 43 & 58) bt Uruguay 1 (Teresa Viana 19-pc); India 4 (Sakshi Rana 7, Navneet Kaur 29-pc, 34-pc, 55-ps) bt Wales 1 (Betsan Thomas 39).

INBRIEF

Trump says Iran 'welcome to compete' in WC: Infantino

US President Donald Trump has said that Iran is "welcome" to participate at the upcoming World Cup in North America, despite the ongoing Middle East war, FIFA chief Gianni Infantino said on Wednesday. "During the discussions, President Trump reiterated that the Iranian team is, of course, welcome to compete in the tournament in the United States," he wrote on social media.

Priyansh, Ambekar and Sahil advance in Futures Cup

Priyansh Sehrawat, L. Ambekar and Sahil Duhan registered convincing victories as the Indian youth boxing team continued their impressive run on the fourth day of the World Boxing Futures Cup in Bangkok on Wednesday. Priyansh (70kg) began the day on a positive note for India with a 5-0 unanimous decision victory over Latvia's Timurs Gulbis before Ambekar (50kg) secured a similar victory over Tajikistan Azamjon Hasanov and Sahil (60kg) recorded a 5-0 win over Amirbek Makhramov of Tajikistan. However, Aman Siwach (65kg) suffered a setback after going down to Ukraine's Rostyslav Horodynskyi when the referee stopped the contest in the second round.

Gujarat Titans ropes in Dahiya as an assistant coach

Gujarat Titans on Wednesday appointed former India wicketkeeper-batter Vijay Dahiya as an assistant coach ahead of the Indian Premier League season. Dahiya's appointment follows the addition of former Australia player Matthew Hayden as the batting coach. Dahiya represented the country in 19 ODIs and two Tests and enjoyed a successful domestic career with Delhi before transitioning into coaching. He guided Delhi to the Ranji Trophy title in the 2007-08 season and has since worked across domestic and IPL teams.

PKL side Gujarat Giants appoints Randhir as coach

Former India international Randhir Singh Sehrawat has been appointed as the head coach of Gujarat Giants ahead of the upcoming season of the Pro Kabaddi League. Sehrawat brings 11 seasons of PKL experience, including one title and six play-off appearances. Sehrawat is one of the most experienced coaches in the league, having been associated with the PKL since 2014.

Yuki-Goransson pair enters the Indian Wells quarterfinals

Yuki Bhambri and his partner Andre Goransson advanced to the Indian Wells men's doubles quarterfinals after registering a straight-set win over Sander Arends and Jiri Lehecka. Bhambri and Goransson produced a solid performance to win 6-4, 6-4 in the last-16 clash that lasted one hour and 14 minutes. The Indo-Swedish pair maintained control for most parts of the contest, securing a break in each set to seal the deal.

Karnataka u-23 women beat Bihar by four wickets

Karnataka defeated Bihar by four wickets in the BCCI under-23 women's one-day trophy at Jaipur.

The scores: Bihar 129 in 38.5 overs (Vaidehi Yadav 64) lost to Karnataka 131/6 in 31.3 overs (Krishika Reddy 62 n.o.).

Arjun Maini to continue with HRT Ford Racing

Indian driver Arjun Maini will continue to race for HRT Ford Racing in the 2026 DTM season. He remains the team's key driver as it enters the DTM season with the Ford Mustang GT3 EVO. Maini has been an integral part of the DTM grid since the championship transitioned to GT3 machinery. He has competed in 78 DTM races, securing three podium finishes and one pole position with HRT. Since 2022, he has also represented the team across multiple international GT racing programs.

LIVE TELECAST

Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Friday)

Anahat aims to win Asian Games, seal Olympics berth

The in-form player says she would be competing more regularly in Gold and Platinum events; the 17-year-old has already won her maiden PSA World Tour Bronze title at the Squash on Fire Open

SQUASH

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Indian teenage squash prodigy Anahat Singh's meteoric rise in the last few years has been phenomenal, to say the least.

Purple patch

In the previous season (2024-25), she won a remarkable nine PSA Challenger titles out of the 11 tournaments she competed in, establishing herself as one of the brightest young talents in world squash.

In the current season (2025-26), she has already scaled a new milestone by winning her maiden PSA World Tour Bronze title at the Squash on Fire Open in Washington last month.

Ranked World No. 20, Anahat is now eager to seal her place for the 2028 LA Olympics by winning the women's singles gold at the 2026 Asian Games, to be held in Japan in September.

Speaking to *The Hindu* in a virtual interview on Wednesday, Anahat sounded confident about her prospects.

Up for it: Anahat says she will push herself as much as she can in the tournament, scheduled to be held in Japan in September. FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

> My confidence has grown. I want to do well in bigger events

"I'm really, really looking forward to it. Going into the Asian Games will be a lot different from any other tournament. If I win this event, I will have an automatic selection for the Olympics, which is everyone's dream. I'm going to push as much as I can and train as hard as I possibly can to try to get a gold," she said.

The 17-year-old said that by virtue of her ranking, she would now be competing more regularly in Gold and Platinum events, where her goal would be to go deeper into the draw and challenge the world's best players.

"My confidence has grown. I want to do well in bigger events," she said.

Anahat added she was also looking forward to the JSW Indian Open beginning on March 18 in Mumbai.

Immediate goal

"I grew up playing junior events at the venue – CCI International (Mumbai). I want to win the title," she said.

The jury which has delivered the Aces

Sports Bureau

The *Sportstar* Aces Awards 2026, to be held on March 13 in Mumbai, has been adjudicated by a distinguished panel of sporting greats whose achievements and contributions span multiple disciplines.

Sunil Gavaskar (Chairman): One of cricket's most revered figures, Gavaskar remains an influential voice in the sport long after his retirement. The former India captain is widely respected for his sharp insights as a commentator and analyst. His keen eye for performance across sports makes him an ideal chair for the jury.

Viswanathan Anand: A five-time World chess champion, Anand transformed India into a global chess powerhouse. The first Asian to win the world title, he continues to compete and contribute to the sport while inspiring generations of players.

Abhinav Bindra: India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, Bindra's triumph at the 2008 Beijing Games marked a watershed moment. Since retiring, he has championed sports science, athlete welfare and high-performance systems through his foundation and was, until recently, vice chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes' Commission.

M.M. Somaya: An Olympic gold medallist from the 1980 Moscow Games, Somaya represented India in three Olympics, captaining the team in the 1988 Seoul Games. His decades-long association with the sport lends a valuable perspective.

Anjali Bhagwat: One of India's finest shooters, Bhagwat dominated the 10m Air Rifle and Rifle 3 Position disciplines and amassed a remarkable collection of international medals. A former world No. 1, she now contributes to the sport as a mentor and commentator.

Aparna Popat: A trailblazer in Indian badminton, Popat won a record nine consecutive national singles titles and represented India at two Olympic Games. Her achievements helped lay the foundation for India's rise in world badminton.

On a high: Tamil Nadu players celebrate their triumph. G. KARTHIKEYAN

TN eases past Maharashtra to lift C.K. Nayudu Trophy

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
DINDIGUL

Tamil Nadu clinched its maiden Col. C.K. Nayudu Trophy title, chasing down 66 to beat Maharashtra by seven wickets on the third day of the final at the NPR College Cricket Ground here on Wednesday.

In doing so, it completed a double, having already lifted the BCCI men's u-23 State-A (One-Day) Trophy this season. Earlier, Kiran Karthikeyan's influence continued after his innings. Having been the last man out for 86 (207b, 9x4) in Tamil Nadu's 334, which secured a first-innings lead of 96, he ran out opener Vicky Ostwal at the striker's end with a sharp piece of fielding from backward square leg on the second ball of Maharashtra's second innings (161).

Left-arm spinners Sachin Rathi and P. Vignesh took three wickets each. Sachin (three for 57) had skipper Sachin Dhas (25) miscue to mid-off, Arshin Kulkarni (44) top-edge a slog sweep to wide mid-on, and Kiran Chormale (4) edge to slip. Vignesh had Digvijay Patil (6) and Ajay Borude (8) caught behind, while Vaibhav Darkunde (7) holed out to deep square leg.

Off-spinner Mohamed Ali (two for 18) trapped Harsh U. Mogaveera (3) leg before and had Sahil Autade (1) caught off his own bowling. Fellow off-spinner Manav Parakh had top-scorer Niraj Joshi (55, 129b, 3x4, 1x6) caught at silly point. Defiance came through a 78-run fourth-wicket stand between opener Niraj and Arshin.

The scores: Maharashtra 238 & 161 in 53.2 overs (Niraj Joshi 55, Arshin Kulkarni 44, P. Vignesh 3/42, Sachin Rathi 3/57) lost to Tamil Nadu 334 in 115.5 overs (S.R. Athish 35, G. Govinth 31, Boopathi Vaishna Kumar 44, Kiran Karthikeyan 86, S. Mohamed Ali 31, Manav Parakh 47, Abhishek Nishad 4/71, Kiran Chormale 3/62) & 67/3 in 20 overs (Vicky Ostwal 3/32).

Smriti among Indians in The Hundred

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Opener Smriti Mandhana headlined the Indian presence in the women's player draft for The Hundred, while compatriot Richa Ghosh secured a deal worth £50,000 and all-rounder Deepti Sharma also earned a contract during the auction here on Wednesday.

A total of 178 players went under the hammer in the draft, while 28 had already been either retained or signed directly by franchises ahead of the event.

The tournament will start on July 21 and conclude on August 16.

Richa was snapped up by Manchester Super Giants after the franchise made a solitary bid that was enough to secure the services of the Indian wicketkeeper-batter.

Super Giants had earlier strengthened the squad by directly signing Smriti along with Australia great Meg Lanning, while England spinner Sophie Ecclestone was retained by the side. Deepti was picked up by Sunrisers Leeds at what was considered a bargain price of £27,500.

However, India's Yastika Bhatia and Shree Charani were left disappointed as they went unsold in the draft.

Gearing up: Manchester Super Giants roped in Smriti directly while Richa was snapped up for £50,000. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

Mandaviya leads push for F1 revival

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Taking another step in his push to revive Formula One in the country, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya held a meeting with the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India to discuss a framework that would create a "strong pipeline" of drivers and technicians.

The meeting was also attended by sports secretary Hari Ranjan Raoand FMSCI council member Vicky Chandhok.

"We discussed and looked at the possibility of bringing F1 and MotoGP to India. The ministry is very keen and very clear the best sport should come here," Chandhok said.

Kishan in the lead

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Former National champion R. Kishan surged into the lead at the end of Round 1 of the ARC 34th National tenpin bowling championships at Amoeba here. Kishan topped the standings with an overall pinfall of 2518 from 12 games, maintaining an average of 209.83.

Delhi's Dhruv Sarda moved into second position, 108 pins behind the leader. Tamil Nadu's S. Anirudhan, 13, became the youngest bowler to qualify for Round 2.

Anirudhan finished 18th overall to secure his place in Round 2.

Sharath sizzles

B.R. Sharath (110 n.o.) powered AGO Recreation Club past DELL CC by nine wickets in the KSCA Group II, Division I league here.

The scores: DELL CC 146/5 in 20 overs (Madhusudhan Rao 43 n.o., Rajesh Kanna 56) lost to AGO Recreation Club 147/1 in 13 overs (B.R. Sharath 110 n.o.).

Shailesh jumps to gold in a depleted field

PARA ATHLETICS GP

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Mariyappan Thangavelu was expected to be the star attraction on Day One of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix here on Wednesday but in his absence, Shailesh Kumar had an easy outing in a depleted field at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

With empty stands and barely any information available on the participants, events and results, the second edition of the competition hardly has any big name participating. The World Champion in T42 high jump managed a best of 1.84m and was satisfied with his effort.

Class prevails: Shailesh underlined his credentials as the World champion. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"It is my first competition this year and the main target is the Asian Games.

"I have been working on my technique with my coach and also have a little niggle in my left knee. Given all that, the performance today was ok," said Shailesh.

It was one of the several events that had three or fewer entries, most of them Indian. "Having someone pushing you in competition and crowd presence makes a lot of difference.

"Here I had to keep talking to myself in my later jumps to stay focused. Hopefully we will get a few competitions abroad before Asian Games," said Shailesh, who set a new World Championships record of 1.91m at the same venue last year.

Russia's David Dzhatiev, two-time World champion and one of the few stars in the fray, took gold in the 100m T35 in 13.43s.

Important results (winners only):

Men: 100m (T35): David Dzhatiev (Rus, 13.43s); **100m (T44):** Sandeep (12.03s); **100m (T46-47):** Dilip Gavit (10.96s); **1500m (T11):** Ankur Dhama (4:38.15).

1500m (T12-13): Darko Marisavljevic (Srb, 4:15.74); **high jump (T44):** Praveen Kumar (1.96m); **high jump (T42):** Shailesh Kumar (1.84m); **discus (F44-64):** Rakesh (49.26m); **discus (F37):** Haney (50.95m).

Women: 100m (T35): Preethi Pal (14.46s); **1500m (T11-12):** Soumya (5:18.94); **shot put (F33-34):** Galina Lipatnikova (Rus, 7.39m); **shot put (F56):** Poonam Sharma (6.85m).

Bayern has one foot in quarters; Atletico routs Spurs

The German champion slams six past a hapless Atalanta; last-gasp goal sees Barcelona escape with a draw at Newcastle; Liverpool stunned by Galatasaray thanks to Lemina's early headed strike

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Lamine Yamal's last-gasp penalty earned Barcelona a 1-1 draw at Newcastle United in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie on Tuesday, while Liverpool lost 1-0 to Galatasaray in Istanbul for the second time this season.

Atletico Madrid piled more misery on Tottenham Hotspur by winning 5-2 on a nightmare evening for visiting goalkeeper Antonin Kinsky, while Bayern Munich is all but through to the quarterfinals after thrashing Atalanta 6-1 in Italy.

At St. James' Park, Newcastle was heading for a night to savour when Harvey Barnes broke the deadlock on 86 minutes as he turned in a Jacob Murphy cross for his sixth Champions League goal this season.

However, Barcelona was awarded a penalty deep in injury time when Dani Olmo was tripped by Malick Thiaw and Yamal – a peripheral figure throughout the game – converted with the last kick of the match in the 96th minute.

Diego Simeone's side tore apart Spurs at the Metropolitano, with Julian Alvarez scoring twice.

It was a horrible night for struggling Tottenham and an especially dreadful one for its Czech goalkeeper Kinsky, whose mistakes gifted two goals for the home side.

Earlier, Mario Lemina scored the only goal for the Turkish league leader Galatasaray, heading in from close range after Victor Osinhen nodded down a corner.

Osimhen had the ball in the net again in the second half, only for an offside decision to come to Liverpool's rescue.

Bayern confirmed its status as one of the leading contenders to win the competition by crushing Atalanta 6-1 in Bergamo.

The results: Galatasaray 1 (Lemina 7) bt Liverpool 0; Atalanta 1 (Pasalic 90+3) lost to Bayern Munich 6 (Stanisic 12, Olise 22, 64, Gnabry 25, Jackson 52, Musiala 67); Newcastle United 1 (Barnes 86) drew with Barcelona 1 (Yamal 90+6-pen); Atletico Madrid 5 (Llorente 6, Griezmann 14, Alvarez 15, 55, Le Normand 22) bt Tottenham 2 (Porros 26, Solanke 76).

Level terms: Yamal, a peripheral figure till then, scores a late equaliser from the spot for Barcelona. AP

Easy money: A goalkeeping howler from Tottenham's Kinsky allows Alvarez to walk in Atletico's third. AP

Asian weightlifting postponed

The Asian weightlifting championships, scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar from April 1 to 10, has been postponed due to the conflict in the Middle East and Gulf region.

Following a meeting of key stakeholders, the Asian Weightlifting Federation (AWF) announced that the continental championships was rescheduled to the current situation.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, WESTERN ZONE
ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
SAMBALPUR, ODISHA
e-Mail : gmwzsambalpur@gmail.com

"e"-Procurement Notice No. 02/OCCL/GMWZ/2025-26 (on-line)

On-line percentage rate tender are invited for the following works ;

Sl No.	Name of Work	Bid Identification No.	Approx. Value of work	Bid Security (through on-line transfer/as per DTCN) (in Rs.)	Period of Completion	Availability & Submission of tender (on-line)
1	Extension of Sub-Divisional Veterinary Hospital at Padampur in Bargarh District	OCCL-SMP/ 02/25-26	Rs.1.94 Cr	Rs.1,94,000/-	1 Year (one year)	From 13.03.2026, 03.30 PM to 27.03.2026,05.30 PM

Procurement Officer : General Manager, Western Zone OCCL
Date of Opening of the Tender : 30.03.2026, 12.00 Noon onwards
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal : *https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in*

Sd/- **General Manager (C), WZ**
34001/189/2526 OIPR-34001/34187/1/25-26/0001

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/188 -2025-26

Tenders are invited through e-Tendering in SRM Two Bid system from the registered vendors for Supply of following:

Tender No. & Description of Material	Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs) / Tender Fee (in Rs.) Excluding GST	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0502/0326 RFx 5000001525 (6th Call) for Procurement of 200MVA, 400/220/20kV, 1-ϕ (02 Nos.) ICT along with New Uninhibited High Grade Mineral Insulating Oil for 400kV Kalwa Substation under Vashi Zone.	Rs. 3156.74 Lakhs / 25,000.00	01.04.2026 Upto 18:00 Hrs / 01.04.2026 at 18:15 Hrs
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	**Date:** 16.03.2026 **Time:** 14:30 Hrs	**Venue:** 8th Floor, MSETCL 'Prakashganga', BKC Bandra (E), Mumbai Maharashtra 400051

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (Gr-V)
CPA, C.O. MSETCL, 1st Floor, Prakashgad Building, Bandra (E), Mumbai
Tel. No.: 022-69852717/69852720
Email id: cecpa@mahatransco.in, secpa@mahatransco.in, eegrp5@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/

Any further amendments/clarifications will be published on the MSETCL website **www.mahatransco.in.** & **https://srmetender.mahatransco.in/** . Bidders are therefore requested to check these websites for further updates.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

Government of Tamil Nadu
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
e-Tender Notice No. 135/2025-2026/BCMC-1/CHENNAI Dated: 10.03.2026
FORM OF CONTRACT: Lumpsum
(Online Only)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders will be received from the eligible Registered Contractors in Public Works Department by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings Construction and Maintenance Circle-1, Chepauk, Chennai 600 005 for the work as mentioned below

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of work	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit & Period of Completion	Eligible Contractors
1	2	3	4	5
	Two Cover System			
1	Construction of Building for the establishment of a Multi-Speciality Centre at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Chennai-3	Rs. 32720.00 Lakhs	Rs.1,63,70,000/- 24 (Twenty Four) Months	PWD Registered contractors Class- IA (Revised monetary limit)

NOTES :-
1. For tender documents and further details **visit "http://tntenders.gov.in"**
2. Last date for submitting the application for Site Visit Certificate to the concerned Executive Engineer **13.04.2026.**
3. Last date and time for submission of e-tender documents **16.04.2026 upto 3.00 PM**
4. Date and time for opening of e-tender **16.04.2026 at 4.00 PM.**
5. In case of any Changes/Corrections/Amendments/Corrigendum in the tender/tender notice, it will be intimated in the website only. **"http://tntenders.gov.in"**

Superintending Engineer, PWD.,
DIPR/1680/TENDER/2026 Buildings (C&M) Circle-1,Chepauk, Chennai 600 005

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March 13, 2026 | Mumbai
6:30 PM onwards

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Associate Partners: Bharat Petroleum, LIC, Government of Telangana, Sports Authority of Telangana, NTPC
Education Partner: REVA UNIVERSITY
Cooling Partner: BLUE STAR Built on Trust
Telecast Partner: TIMES NOW

‘The follow-on decision at Eden one of my poorest’

Former Australia coach Buchanan admits that the emotions got the better of him in the 2001 Kolkata Test; feels Indian cricket, basking in the T20 World Cup glory, is heading in the right direction

EXCLUSIVE

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

John Buchanan is one of the most successful coaches in cricket history. Apart from sustaining Australia’s position at the top of the Test rankings in the early 2000s, he guided the team to consecutive ODI World Cup triumphs in 2003 and 2007.

Not surprisingly, Buchanan has an unblemished record in the quadrennial tournament as Australia did not lose a game in either edition.

So watching Australia crash out in the first stage of the recently-concluded T20 World Cup would have been hard to swallow for the 72-year-old. In a chat with *The Hindu*, the Australian reckoned that the early exit was a timely wake-up call for the cricket authorities back home.

A wake-up call

“There’s an expectation on a side like Australia to at least make the semifinals, and then potentially the final and even win it. So when they get knocked out in the round-robin stage, it means that they’re losing to teams they should easily beat. That should instigate some soul-searching and real, in-depth thinking about why it happened,” Buchanan said on Tuesday.

He was here in his role as a co-founder of the ‘Ready Steady Go Kids’ programme, which is designed for kids aged two to seven and introduces them to 13 different sports.

On India’s T20 World Cup triumph, he remarked, “My overall view on Indian cricket is that it’s heading in the direction where you would expect it to be. It’s a powerhouse of world cricket. Simply because there is so much talent in this country, and the competition to get into the national team is very, very high. Therefore, the players, who are presumably selected on merit and graduate, fit pretty well to play at that level. And I think you’re beginning to see that with the win the other day.”

One of the most pivotal moments in history that played a role in India’s rise involved Buchanan.

One for the ages: Laxman and Dravid made Australia pay for its error in judgement with an epic partnership. FILE PHOTO: V. V. KRISHNAN

It was on March 11, 2001, 25 years ago, that the iconic second Test between India and Australia at Eden Gardens in Kolkata started. Steve Waugh’s decision to enforce the follow-on backfired as V.V.S. Laxman (281) and Rahul Dravid’s (180) spectacular 376-run partnership helped India stage a remarkable comeback and script a famous victory. When asked whether he regretted that decision, Buchanan conceded that emotions got the better of him. “I regard it as one of my poorest decisions as a coach, but it was not just about enforcing the follow-on. The game was set up nicely, and we had a big lead (274 runs). My job was not to get caught up in the emotion of what was going on the field. But I did,” he said.

“As the players walked in, my job was to make them sit down quickly and say what our options were. I think they still would have gone there (to enforce the follow-on), but I didn’t take the time to get them to think that if we had batted, we would have batted India out of the game. Our objective was to go there to win the series. But we enforced the follow-on, and the rest is history [India clinched the series 2-1 with a win in Chennai],” added Buchanan.

Dream project: Buchanan flanked by Abinesh Manoharan (Exclusive franchise partner, Chennai Ready Steady Go Kids) and Joshua D’Mello (Franchise business head). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ayush, Tanvi and Unnati exit from the Swiss Open

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
BASEL

Indian shuttlers endured a disappointing day at the Swiss Open as several players, including Ayush Shetty and Tanvi Sharma, bowed out in the opening round of the Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday.

In men’s singles, Ayush Shetty, the US Open champion, lost 18-21, 19-21 to Canada’s Brian Yang, while Taiwan’s Chiu Pin-Chian outclassed Unnati Hooda 21-14, 21-14 in the women’s singles.

Top seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia earlier brushed aside India’s Tanvi Sharma 21-11, 21-10. H.S. Prannoy gave a walkover to Japan’s Koki Watanabe.

Meanwhile, late on Tuesday, World No. 4 men’s doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty advanced to the round of 16 with a 21-19, 21-19 win over Singapore’s Eng Keat Wesley Koh and Junsuke Kubo.

The results (first round): Men: Brian Yang bt Ayush Shetty 21-18, 21-19; Koki Watanabe w/o H.S. Prannoy.
Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Eng Keat Wesley Koh & Junsuke Kubo 21-19, 21-19; H. Amsakarunan & M.R. Arjun bt Chen Zhi Ray & Lin Yu Chieh 21-16, 24-22.
Women: Chiu Pin-Chian bt Unnati Hooda 21-14, 21-14; Putri Kusuma Wardani bt Tanvi Sharma 21-11, 21-10.
Mixed doubles: Ruttanapak Oupthong & Jhenicha Sudjaipraparat bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Shivani Gadde 21-19, 21-14.

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259 | Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in
E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tender is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, for the supply of **Surgical Consumables** from the Manufacturers having three years Market Standing and holding Quality Management System (QMS) and from direct Importers holding a valid Import License and experience in the field for a minimum period of three years. Loan Licensees having Valid Loan License with three year Market Standing is also eligible to participate in this tender. All the licenses shall be in accordance with Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

Sl. No.	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of **Surgical Consumables** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for one year from the date of acceptance	**e-007/M(P)/ SURGICAL/ TNMSC/2026, Dated 13.03.2026**	**13.03.2026 at 11.00 AM to 16.04.2026 upto 3.00 PM**	**27.03.2026 at 10.00 AM to 16.04.2026 upto 3.00 PM**	**16.04.2026 at 4.00 PM**

The virtual Prebid meeting is to be held on **20.03.2026 at 11.30 AM.** The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

DIPR/1719/Tender/2026

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor,
BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No.DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/29/2025-26 Date:11.03.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the Services mentioned in the table given below

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Contract Period
1	Fly and Odour Control with Public Safety & Civic Improvement Works around Bellahalli, Bagaluru and Bayyappanahalli influence areas, along with basic infrastructure development works in Byatarayanapura Constituency.	7204.92	**Rs.1,00,000/-** through e-payment mode under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC and the balance **Rs.71,04,920/-** by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized / Scheduled Bank	11 Months

1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: **22.03.2026** before **17:30 hrs.**
2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: **23.03.2026** at **15:00 hrs** at above mentioned office.
3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender **06.04.2026** before **16:00 hrs**. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: **07.04.2026** after **16:30 hrs**.
More details can be downloaded from website - **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1,
BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6190/CCL/2025-26

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